

Buckley Town Council

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Town Clerk and Financial Officer:
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Cyngor Tref Bwcle

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Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

MBW/LG

8th October 2019

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Councillor,

You are requested to attend a Special Meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber on Monday 14th October 2019 commencing at 6pm.

The Agenda for the meeting is given below.

Yours sincerely,

Town Clerk and Financial Officer

cc Councillor D Butler, Flintshire County Council
Council C Thomas, Flintshire County Council
Niall Waller, Flintshire County Council
Andy Roberts, Flintshire County Council
Stephen O Jones, Flintshire County Council

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons.

2. REGENERATION OF BUCKLEY TOWN CENTRE

Members will recall that a Special Meeting was held on Tuesday 18th June 2019 with regard to the above, those attending from Flintshire County Council were Councillor D Butler, Mr N Waller and Mr A Roberts. The discussions divided into two distinct

streams, Car Parking and the Regeneration of the Town Centre. The minutes of the Special Meeting were approved at the Council Meeting held on 25th June 2019. Members will recall that the resolution read "... that the representatives from Flintshire County Council be thanked for their attendance and that a further meeting would be held in September 2019, with consideration being given to the suggestions made. Car parking charges would be looked at before the next meeting and that Flintshire County Council would investigate town centre loan funding availability through the Welsh Assembly Government" (minute 17612 refers). A copy of the draft minutes was forwarded to Flintshire County Council, no comments were received in respect of the draft minutes. (copy of approved minutes enclosed).

Following the meeting the Clerk, in order to progress the matter of car parking charges, emailed the Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation, on 19th June 2019 requesting whether or not the Chief Officer would be willing to consider recommending a proposal for free short stay car parking in the Buckley car parks. The Chief Officer replied on 25th June 2019 stating that free car parking would be against Flintshire County Council's stated policy, however, there may be options available provided that any free parking was supported by a financial contribution from Buckley Town Council. The Clerk replied on 25th June 2019 asking for details of the alternative proposals available, intimated in the Chief Officer's email of 25th June 2019. The Chief Officer replied on 25th June 2019 stating that the Car Parking Order for the section of the car park nearest to [Brunswick Road] could be amended to allow 30 minutes free parking, however, Buckley Town Council would be required to fund the balance of the reduced income. The Clerk replied again on 25th June 2019 requesting a costings exercise based on the 30 minute free parking for the 18 spaces plus 4 disabled spaces in the Brunswick Road short stay car park. The Clerk also stated that he presumed that the Chief Officer's offer did not include the car park behind The Cross Methodist Church. The Clerk forwarded a reminder on 11th June 2019 requesting when the costing information could be provided. The Chief Officer replied on 12th July 2019 providing a cost to be covered by Buckley Town Council of £14,123.84, inclusive of VAT. Unfortunately, the Chief Officer did not appear to appreciate that Buckley Town Council already pays for free parking in all Flintshire County Council car parks during December each year. Following the email correspondence the Clerk then wrote to Councillor D Butler on 24th July 2019 advising him of the outcome of the correspondence between the Clerk and the Chief Officer and the fact that the matter had been referred to the Highways and Leisure Committee of the Town Council at its meeting held on 23rd July 2019 (please see enclosed minutes of the above Committee, specifically minute 17682). The Clerk also stated that a further Special Meeting was requested to discuss the car parking issues only (this complied with the resolution of the meeting held on 18th June 2019) and suggested dates in early September 2019. On the same day the Clerk wrote to the Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation, requesting a recalculation of the figures he had provided to ensure that December was excluded from any costing and also a copy of the details and dates of the reviews undertaken by the Chief Officer that had been unable to identify any suitable locations for on-street free parking. The Clerk had advised Councillor D Butler of his email to the Chief Officer.

On 16th August 2019 the Chief Officer emailed the Clerk stating that Councillor Butler was attempting to organise a meeting to discuss car parking proposals with the Town Council, but was intending for the discussions to form part of the wider discussions on

the regeneration of the town centre. Flintshire County Council were therefore apparently not willing to have two separate meetings as was originally agreed at the meeting held on 18th June 2019. Flintshire County Council's position was clarified on 5th August 2019 by Niall Waller when he stated in an email to the Clerk "It would be our preference to attend a single meeting to discuss both topics as they are interrelated." . The Clerk replied to Mr Waller on 2nd September 2019 outlining what had been agreed on the 18th June 2019 and stated "... I have been trying to arrange that which was agreed ie looking at the free parking issues before having the second regeneration meeting. If, however, Councillor Butler and yourself require the two meetings to be held at the same time then if you could provide me with some dates in early October, I will arrange for that meeting to take place." . As at the date this Agenda has been forwarded to Members and relevant Flintshire County Council Members and Officers, the Clerk has received no calculations or copies as described in his email to the Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation, dated 24th July 2019, the only response has been to suggest that the Clerk met with the Chief Officer sometime in September. The dates provided were not convenient for the Clerk.

The Council is requested to receive and note the above report, enclosed minutes and correspondence and to discuss the two separate issues ie Car Parking Charges and the Regeneration of the Town Centre with the representatives from Flintshire County Council.