

**MINUTES of a
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held in the
Council Chamber, Buckley
on
Monday 14th October 2019**

PRESENT

Councillor A Woolley (Mayor) – in the Chair

Cllr V E Blondek
Cllr C A Ellis
Cllr D Ellis
Cllr I D Howes
Cllr E J Hutchinson

Cllr J S Jones
Cllr R B Jones
Cllr M J Peers
Cllr I Peters

Cllr N Phillips
Cllr C M Preece
Cllr P G Shone
Cllr A G Williams

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M B Wright – Town Clerk & Financial Officer
Mrs T J Reece – Personal Assistant
Mr A White – Town Centre Manager & Technical Officer (Contractor)
Councillor C Thomas – Flintshire County Council
Mr S O Jones – Flintshire County Council
Mr N Waller – Flintshire County Council

17738- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors L G Fox (holiday), H D Hutchinson (work commitments), W A Lewis (work commitments), E L Preece (prior meeting) and J F Thornton (illness).

17739- REGENERATION OF BUCKLEY TOWN CENTRE

The Chair welcomed the representatives from Flintshire County Council and requested that those representatives open the meeting with a statement. The Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside Services stated that Flintshire County Council were offering ½ hour free parking at Flintshire County Council's expense for the 18 spaces (plus 4 disabled spaces) on the short stay car park on Brunswick Road. The reason given was that there was inadequate on street parking facilities on roads in the town centre, other towns in the County had on street parking in their town centres.

There followed a detailed discussion, in which the Clerk read out a statement from Cllr L G Fox in his approved absence, the statement related to the car parking issues. It became apparent during the discussions that most Members accepted that ½ hour free parking, although welcomed as an offer, was not sufficient and 1 hour free parking would be a better option. The way the scheme, if adopted, would operate would be that the short stay car park would not have ticket machines but simply have signs stating that it was free for a period of time and there was to be no return within a specified time. The Clerk explained to

the Council that it had not made any formal offer to Flintshire County Council in respect of funding an extra ½ hour for free parking, nor had it any budgetary provision for the costs. However, if the Council so decided the additional expenditure could be taken from Reserves. It was noted that the original costings provided by Flintshire County Council for funding ½ hour's free parking had been incorrect as they included December which Buckley Town Council already paid for in its entirety.

Having sincerely thanked the representatives of Flintshire County Council for its generous offer of ½ hour free parking in the short stay car park, the following arrangements were considered for approval as a way of moving the proposal for 1 hour's free parking forward:-

1. That Flintshire County Council's offer of funding ½ hour free parking be appreciated and accepted.
2. That the 1 hour free parking would be a match funded arrangement with Buckley Town Council funding ½ an hour through its Reserves in 2019/20.
3. That the arrangement would commence in January 2020.
4. That Flintshire County Council would provide costings for the liability of Buckley Town Council for the 3 months January to March 2020 and for a full year (excluding December) for 2020/21. The costings to be provided by the end of November 2019 so that they can be incorporated into Buckley Town Council's Budget calculations for 2020/21.
5. That the current arrangements in respect of Buckley Town Council paying for free parking in Buckley during December each year should continue and that Flintshire County Council would provide the costings for December 2019.
6. The arrangements in respect of the 1 hour free parking would be reviewed at the end of the 2019/20 financial year with a view to continuing throughout the 2020/21 year.
7. That the free parking would be governed by signs erected which stated the length of time the short stay car park was free to park in and a specified time within which a return to the car park was not allowed.
8. Flintshire County Council would be responsible for monitoring and controlling the usage of the short stay car park.

Amendments made by Flintshire County Council to these minutes:-

- a) In place of note 7 above, the users of the short stay car park would be required to obtain a ticket and that this would be the method of controlling parking on the car park. It would also comply with Flintshire County Council's Parking Strategy.
- b) The proposal for 1 hour free parking would be subject to further approval, although Flintshire County Council accepted that the proposal met the current policy.
- c) Flintshire County Council advised that the cost of 1 hour free parking would be difficult to assess, due to the impact it would have on other parking habits in the town. It was suggested that the exact recharge figure could be based on the actual number of tickets issued.

The Council then discussed regeneration in general and in particular for the potential of removing the pedestrianisation in Brunswick Road.

Again after a detailed discussion, it was noted that Buckley Town Council needed to express an interest in the potential de-pedestrianisation of Brunswick Road so that a meeting could be arranged to discuss the various courses of action that need to be followed in order to achieve a workable plan. Mention was made of the potential for the Lawn Tennis Association to create a presence in Buckley.

Cllr H D Hutchinson arrived at 6.45pm and Cllr I D Howes left at 7pm.

It was therefore, in respect of both elements of the discussions –

Resolved – that in respect of the free car parking in the Brunswick Road short stay car park the notes 1 - 8 inclusive above be acknowledged as the resolution and that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet be requested to consider the matter and approve the recommendation. In respect of regeneration generally, the Town Council expressed a positive interest in exploring the potential for the regeneration of Buckley town centre which could include the de-pedestrianisation of the pedestrianised parts of Brunswick Road and a review of traffic flows in Mill Lane and Mold Road. Further, there should be a review of the Buckley Investment Strategy report as produced by BE Group/ACOM. Flintshire County Council to be advised of the interest expressed in respect of the de-pedestrianisation of parts of Brunswick Road.

CHAIR