

MINUTES of a MEETING
of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held in the
Council Chamber, BUCKLEY
on
Tuesday 26th June 2018

PRESENT

Councillor A Woolley - in the Chair

Cllr C A Ellis	Cllr M J Peers	Cllr E L Preece
Cllr D Ellis	Cllr S Peers	Cllr P G Shone
Cllr I D Howes	Cllr I Peters	Cllr M P Teire
Cllr E J Hutchinson	Cllr C M Preece	Cllr J F Thornton
Cllr R B Jones		

IN ATTENDANCE

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

17160- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors V Blondek (hospital visiting), H D Hutchinson (work commitments), W A Lewis (work commitments), N Phillips (no reason given) and A G Williams (work commitments).

17161- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Resolved – that no Declarations of Interest were noted.

17162- MINUTES

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 22nd May 2018, as now submitted, be signed by the Committee Chair.

**17163- PRESENTATION – FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL –
BUCKLEY CONNECTS**

The Chair welcomed Councillor W Mullins, Flintshire County Council and Ms J Griffiths, Flintshire County Council, Connects Manager to the meeting. They were then invited to make a presentation in relation to the Connects facility in Buckley.

Ms Griffiths advised that the footfall (as indicated on the statistics provided with the Agendas) was lower in Buckley than the other centres.

Ms Griffiths stated that the reasons for the lower footfall in Buckley could be the location of the Connects facility (it was located on the first floor of the Buckley Library building) and also potentially a lack of publicity. In order to rectify those perceived problems, the facility would be relocated to the ground floor of the Library in the next month.

Ms Griffiths asked if Members had any other reasons for the low footfall. Councillor Mullins, when asked to clarify his statement that the Registration Service was available in Buckley Connects, advised that it was available in other Connects centres and would be available in Buckley in due course. During the ensuing question and answer session, the matter of privacy was raised, to which the response was that a privacy area would be dedicated for the service. A possible reason for the low footfall was suggested as due to the fact that members of the public in Buckley tend to contact their local Members with queries. The service was praised by a number of Members, however a question was raised as to whether or not Flintshire County Council could list all the services available at the centres and indicate which of those services were available online. The need for promoting the service was noted. It was therefore –

Resolved – that Councillor Mullins and Ms Griffiths be thanked for their presentation, their answers to questions raised and that the presentation be received and noted.

Cllr V Blondek arrived at 7.28pm

17164- TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Committee received and considered the Town Centre Manager's monthly report for June 2018. The Town Centre Manager advised the Committee that there were three new potential shops opening in the town, all of which would be hairdressers and that the old Windmill Grill had re-opened as Buckley Bar and Grill. It was –

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

17165- AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVATION

The Committee received and considered an email from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust which requested a letter of support from the Town Council in order for it to obtain funding to implement an educational project on four nature reserves set within the town of Buckley. The project would also seek to attract volunteers to learn and help out on the nature reserves and improve habitats for the town's local wildlife. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk's recommendation be received and noted and a letter of support be forwarded to the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust.

17166- CONSULTATION ON DIVERSITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk which enclosed a communication from the National Assembly for Wales, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee which invited written evidence to assist in its consideration of the diversity in Local Government. The Clerk recommended to the Committee that Members should, if they so wished, respond to the communication on an individual basis. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk’s recommendation be received, noted and it be approved for Members to, if they so wished, complete the questionnaire and return it to the National Assembly for Wales.

17167- JAPANESE YOUTH EXCHANGE

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk which reminded Members that at the meeting of this Committee held on 24th April 2018 it had resolved that “... the Clerk’s report be received and noted, that the Clerk’s communications with the original Trustee be noted and approved and that agreement be provided for further exploratory discussions with a view to providing some form of function”. The resolution had related to a visit in July 2018 of dignitaries from Japan regarding the Japanese Youth Exchange programme. The Committee also received a copy of an email from the Arts, Culture and Events Manager, Flintshire County Council which advised that the Japanese dignitaries would be visiting on 28th and 29th July 2018. A request was made for Buckley Town Council to consider hosting a lunch and a tree planting in Buckley on 29th July 2018 between 12.30 – 3.30pm. The Clerk had informed Flintshire County Council that the matter would be placed before this Committee; however he felt that the Town Council would be willing to accommodate the request. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk’s report be received and noted and that £200.00 be set aside for hosting and supplying the requested buffet lunch and that the tree planting be arranged in Coronation Gardens. Members would be invited to attend.

17168- MEETING CHAIRED BY THE TOWN MAYOR IN RELATION TO REGENERATION

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk which outlined the discussions held at the meeting arranged by the Mayor (endorsed by the Council) with various politicians, representatives of property owners, staff of Buckley Town Council and an officer of Flintshire County Council, the meeting was held at Hawkesbury Community Centre on 22nd May 2018. The Mayor gave a verbal presentation but advised that full details could not be disclosed until the minutes had been approved by all those present at the meeting. However, it was stated that three short term initiatives could be considered, those being the continued proposal by the Town Council to fund 6 months free parking in Buckley by paying Flintshire County Council for an agreed calculated loss of earnings, the de-pedestrianisation of Brunswick Road and the introduction of pop-up shops for specific purposes. The Committee noted the presentation and the three potential short term initiatives and after a discussion it was –

Resolved – that the Clerk’s report and the Mayor’s presentation be received and noted, that it be noted that three short term initiatives had been discussed, however no further discussion should take place on the matter, particularly in relation to initiative no 2 (the de-pedestrianisation of Brunswick Road) at this time. The other two initiatives to be pursued through the Town Council in relation to initiative no 1 and initiative no 3 to be considered after the politicians present at the above meeting and the officer from Flintshire County Council be contacted to provide advice, guidance and information on any funding or assistance available on the matter.

17169- FREDERICK BIRKS VC MM – CENTENARY PAVING STONE

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk that reminded Members that at its meeting held on 23rd January 2018, this Committee had resolved, in relation to the above that "... the recommendation made by the Clerk and the Armed Forces Liaison Officer be approved and arrangements be made for the paving stone to be placed in Coronation Gardens and that Coronation Gardens be marked as a Centenary Field in Trust".

The Clerk's report gave the Committee details of the progress that had been made in relation to both the paving stone and the Centenary Field in Trust. The report advised the Committee of the proposed programme for the event which would take place on 21st September 2018 and also the progress that had been made in relation to dedicating Coronation Gardens as a Centenary Field in Trust. The Clerk advised the Committee that it was hoped that the dedication of Coronation Gardens as a Centenary Field in Trust would occur on the same day at the same time. The Clerk recommended to the Committee that £400.00 should be allocated from the Civic Expenses Budget Head for 2018/19 for the laying of the foundations for the memorial paving stone and that the Town Council should print the booklets for the order of the dedication event. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk's report be received and noted, that £400.00 be allocated from the Civic Expenses Budget Head for the laying of the foundations for the memorial paving stone and that the Town Council would print the booklets for the order of the dedication event.

17170- ITEMS TABLED FOR MEMBERS' PERUSAL

The following items were tabled for Members' perusal:-

1. Wrexham – Bidston Rail Users' Association – March 2018 News.
2. Press Statement – Community Health Council.
3. Flintshire Public Services Board had published the Well-being Plan for Flintshire 2017-2023.

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


CHAIR