

MINUTES of a MEETING
of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held in the
Council Chamber, BUCKLEY
on
Tuesday 23rd October 2018

PRESENT

Councillor A Woolley - in the Chair

Cllr V E Blondek

Cllr C A 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 J F Thornton

Cllr A G Williams

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M B Wright – Town Clerk & Financial Officer

Mrs T J Reece – Personal Assistant

17282- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors D Ellis (prior meeting), H D Hutchinson (illness), W A Lewis (family commitments), S Peers (work commitments), E L Preece (work commitments) and M P Teire (illness).

17283- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Three Declarations of Interest were made in relation to Agenda item 7 - Remembrance Day Service, Agenda item 9 – FCC Standards Committee Joint Meeting and Agenda item 11 - Flintshire CAB Statistics by Cllr A Woolley. It was –

Resolved – that the Declarations of Interest were noted.

17284- MINUTES

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 25th September 2018, as now submitted, be signed by the Committee Chair.

17285- TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Committee received and considered the Town Centre Manager's monthly report.

Resolved – that the Town Centre Manager's report be received, noted and approved and it be noted that the activities on Fireworks night commenced at 5pm with the Firework Display itself commenced at 6.30pm.

17286- ANNUAL FIREWORK DISPLAY

The Committee received a report advising that the Annual Fireworks Display would take place on 5th November 2018. Members were requested to provide names who would be willing to act as Safety Stewards and donation collectors on the night. Anyone volunteering was requested to attend the Town Council stage at 6pm on the night. Those Members who indicated their willingness to volunteer were Councillors V E Blondek, C A Ellis, D Ellis, I D Howes, E J Hutchinson, R B Jones, I Peters, N Phillips, E L Preece, C M Preece and A Woolley. It was –

Resolved – that the above report be received and noted and that the above-named Councillors be thanked for their offer of volunteering and they be advised to attend the Council stage at 6pm.

17287- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

The Committee received a report, which advised that the Switch-On for the Christmas Lights would be on Saturday 24th November 2018. The report requested that Members make themselves available to assist throughout the day to ensure that the event went off successfully. Those Members willing to volunteer were requested to contact the Town Centre Manager. It was –

Resolved – that the above report be received and noted.

17288- THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – BUCKLEY BRANCH – REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AND PARADE – SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2018

The Committee received a report which advised that the Town Council had once again been invited to The Royal British Legion, Buckley Branch, Remembrance Day Service and Parade. The Parade and Service would take place on Sunday 11th November 2018. The Clerk advised the Committee that the arrangements with regard to the laying of the wreaths at the Cenotaph had not yet been advised. The Clerk also advised the Committee that he would forward the arrangements for the day as soon as they were received. It was –

Resolved – that the report be received and noted and that the Clerk be instructed to contact the Chair of The Royal British Legion, Buckley Branch, to receive the finalised arrangements for the day.

17289- REGENERATION MEETING 8th JUNE 2018

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Regeneration Meeting held on 8th June 2018 at Hawkesbury Community Centre, the meeting was attended by the Town Mayor, Mark Tami MP, Jack Sargeant AM, Mark Isherwood AM, David McCallum (Mason Owen), the Enterprise and Regeneration Manager, Flintshire County Council, the Town Clerk and the Town Centre Manager.

During the ensuing debate reference was made to the North Wales Economic Growth Bid, which appeared to only affect two areas in Flintshire, the public transport arrangements, particularly along the Deeside strip and the development of housing and retail at Warren Hall. Mention was also made that Flintshire County Council had reduced the car parking charges at the request of Mold Town Council, the reduction applying to the other charging towns as well, yet Flintshire County Council had declined to accept Buckley Town Council financing six months free parking in Buckley. It was therefore –

Resolved – that the report be received and noted and that the Clerk be instructed to communicate with Flintshire County Council with regard to the potential benefit Buckley Town may receive from the North Wales Economic Growth Bid. Also that the Clerk communicate with the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) in respect of the car parking charges alteration following Mold Town Council’s complaint vis-a-vie Buckley Town Council’s earlier offer.

17290- STANDARDS COMMITTEE – JOINT MEETING WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS ON MONDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2018

The Committee received and considered a report and enclosed correspondence from Flintshire County Council, which advised that the next meeting of the Standards Committee – Joint Meeting with Town and Community Councils would be on Monday 12th November 2018 at 6pm. The communication from Flintshire County Council requested any suggestions for the Agenda. The Clerk suggested that the lack of adherence to the Shared Charter and Flintshire County Council’s Public Charter with regard to responses to communications could be an item for discussion. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk’s report and enclosed correspondence be received and noted and the Clerk’s above suggestion be forwarded as the Committee’s request for inclusion in the above meeting’s Agenda.

17291- PAYF CAFÉ

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk with regard to the closure of the PAYF CAFÉ on the first floor of the Town Council building. The Clerk advised the Committee that no formal notification of closure had been received by him in relation to the matter. However, a meeting had taken place between the Clerk and the Licence holder in respect of the PAYF CAFÉ. The Licence holder had confirmed the premises were closed and also confirmed that throughout the time the Café was open no Public Liability Insurance had been held by the Licensee. The Clerk had therefore, at the above meeting, advised the Licensee that irrespective of her intentions the Licence was revoked with immediate effect. The Clerk also advised the Committee that £100.00 had been received from the Licensee for the cleaning of the carpet on the shared landing and staircase, the cleaning was required as a result of the activities of the PAYF CAFÉ. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk’s report be received and noted and his actions in immediately revoking the Licence at the above meeting be acknowledged and approved.

17292- 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 July 2018 to 30th September 2018. The Committee was asked to note that of the 42 clients seen during the period, 31 came from Buckley. It was –

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

17293- LACK OF POST BOX IN BUCKLEY TOWN CENTRE

The Committee received a report from the Clerk on the progress made with regard to obtaining the installation of a new post box outside the new post office in the Spar Shop in Brunswick Road. The Committee was reminded that the Clerk had written to Royal Mail Customer Services on 9th April 2018 and had received a response on 7th May 2018, which stated “We are in the process of relocating the boxes. The boxes have been sealed as they happen to be on some land which is owned by a third party ... the Collections Manager is working to have new boxes installed as soon as possible”. The Clerk advised the Committee that he had written on 23rd May 2018 in reply to the above Royal Mail response and had sought a timescale for the replacement post box to be sited. The Clerk had forwarded reminder letters on 16th July 2018 and 15th October 2018, to-date no response had been received.

The Clerk also advised the Committee that a member of staff of an Accountancy Firm, in the town centre had contacted him and advised that because of the time it took to post letters, she had written to Royal Mail also requesting when a post box would be installed and received a response which included a street plan with an application for the siting of a post box in a suitable location. As a result of this the Clerk had again written to Royal Mail Customer Services stating the futility of Royal Mail’s response to the above lady and also asking again when would the new post box be installed.

During the ensuing debate a Member advised the Committee that the old post boxes had recently been lifted from their location and removed. It was therefore –

Resolved – that in the light of the report from the Clerk and his verbal update, correspondence be forwarded to the Chief Executive of the Royal Mail raising a formal complaint about how the matter has been dealt with and requesting an urgent relocation of the post boxes to a site outside the Spar Shop.

17294- ITEMS TABLED FOR MEMBERS’ PERUSAL

The following items were tabled for Members’ perusal: -

1. Carnegie UK Trust – New Powers, New Deals: Remaking British Towns after Brexit.
2. FLVC E-Bulletin – 20th September 2018.

3. FLVC E-Bulletin – 3rd October 2018.
4. FLVC E-Bulletin – 8th October 2018
5. Flintshire District Scouts Annual Report 2017/18.
6. FDF October Newsletter.

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

CHAIR