

**MINUTES of a MEETING**  
**of the**  
**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**held in the**  
**Council Chamber, BUCKLEY**  
**on**  
**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**PRESENT**

Councillor A Woolley - in the Chair

Cllr V E Blondék

Cllr D Ellis

Cllr I D Howes

Cllr E J Hutchinson

Cllr H D Hutchinson

Cllr J S Jones

Cllr R B Jones

Cllr M J Peers

Cllr S Peers

Cllr I Peters

Cllr N Phillips

Cllr M P Teire

Cllr J F Thornton

**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

**17333- APOLOGIES**

C A Ellis (family commitments), C M Preece (family commitments), E L Preece (family commitments), P G Shone (family commitments), A G Williams (work commitments) and W A Lewis would be leaving the meeting at 8pm (family commitments).

**17334- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Five Declarations of Interest were made in relation to Agenda item 5 – Electoral Review in Flintshire by Councillors R B Jones, H D Hutchinson, M J Peers, N Phillips and A Woolley. One Declaration of Interest was made in relation to Agenda item 7 - Citizens Advice Flintshire – Universal Credit Full Service and Agenda item 9 – The Royal British Legion War Memorial at Precinct Way Car Park by Councillor A Woolley. It was –

*Resolved – that the Declarations of Interest were noted.*

**17335- MINUTES**

*Resolved - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, as now submitted, be signed by the Committee Chair.*

**17336- TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

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

During the ensuing debate the Town Centre Manager was applauded for the excellence of his report and for the outstanding successes of the Firework Display and the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Particular thanks were given for the arrangements made for Special Needs people to view the Fireworks Display from the stage. It was -

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

#### **17337- ELECTORAL REVIEW FLINTSHIRE**

The Committee received and considered an email from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, which advised of the Review of Electoral Arrangements for Flintshire County Council, the review was intended to consider and formulate proposals for future arrangements. Attached to the enclosed email were two maps showing the existing variance in the electoral representation from the existing County average, the existing variance in electoral representation from the proposed County average, a spreadsheet of the existing County Council membership with the numbers of Councillors per Ward and the electorate in 2018, the electorate in 2023 and the average electors per Councillor. The closing date for comments to be made was 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.

Following a detailed debate, which included advice to Members that the make up of any approved Working Group should not be exclusively County Councillors who were also Town Councillors, it was –

*Resolved – that a Working Group be organised with delegated powers to act to formulate and issue a response to the above consultation, the make up of the Working Group to be as follows, to ensure representation from each of the four Town Wards:-*

*Councillors C A Ellis, D Ellis, R B Jones, M J Peers, I Peters, N Phillips, M P Teire and A Woolley.*

*The initial meeting to be held as soon as possible, during the Town Council’s working day.*

Councillor W A Lewis gave her apologies (family commitments) and left the meeting at 8.02pm.

#### **17338- REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WLAES**

The Committee received and considered a covering email from One Voice Wales, which enclosed correspondence from the Boundary Commission for Wales advising that the final recommendations report for the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales had been submitted to the Minister for the Cabinet Office. It was –

*Resolved – that the correspondence be received and noted.*

**17339- CITIZENS ADVICE FLINTSHIRE – UNIVERSAL CREDIT FULL SERVICE**

The Committee received and considered a pictorial and written commentary on the Citizens Advice Flintshire's experience of the Universal Credit Full Service – August to September 2018. It was –

*Resolved – that the information be received and noted.*

**17340- LACK OF POST BOX IN BUCKLEY TOWN CENTRE**

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk, which highlighted the progress so far in the Town Council's endeavours to ensure a post box facility in Brunswick Road outside the Post Office in the Spar shop. Members were also advised that before them was the latest letter from Royal Mail together with the Clerk's response.

During the ensuing debate the Clerk and Staffs' efforts in the matter were endorsed and applauded. It was also noted that Royal Mail had advised the Clerk that things appeared to have gone awry in ensuring a replacement post box was installed to replace the now removed ones, that no satisfactory answers from Royal Mail Staff had been received and that no work instructions had been issued to install the new post box(s). The latest letter from Royal Mail did provide some positive news, but no timescale was indicated for the installation of a post box. It was –

*Resolved – that the Clerk's report and additional communications received be received and noted.*

**17341- THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WAR MEMORIAL AT PRECINCT WAY CAR PARK**

The Committee received a report from the Clerk, which indicated that a number of comments had been made to Members about the redesigned site which was dedicated on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018, some of those comments had not been particularly complimentary. The Clerk sought the Committee's views on whether or not the Town Council wished to take the matter up with The Royal British Legion, Buckley Branch.

During the ensuing detailed debate, it was emphasised and noted that the site had been redeveloped following a public consultation and the artwork and memorial were as approved by the public in a public vote. It was also emphasised that The Royal British Legion were the custodians of the site and the Chair and other Members of that body were happy with the finished Memorial site.

Comment was made that the surrounding garden areas were to be landscaped with the trees to the right of the Memorial being removed and the short length of fencing also be removed. The area around the Memorial would be cleared and grassed. The work would be commissioned by Aldi. It was therefore -

*Resolved – that the Clerk's report be received and noted and no further action taken at this time.*

### **17342- INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL ON COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES**

The Committee received and considered the final report from the Independent Review Panel on Community and Town Councils in Wales. The Committee was reminded that the Panel had been set up to review and report upon:-

1. The potential role of Local Government below Local Authority Councils, drawing on best practice.
2. Defining the most appropriate model(s) structure(s) to deliver this role.
3. To consider how these models and structures should be applied across Wales. This would include consideration of any situations in which they would not be necessary or appropriate.

The final report enclosed detailed recommendations. It was –

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

### **17343- TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF DRURY POST OFFICE**

The Committee received and considered an email from the Post Office, which enclosed a formal notification of the temporary closure of Drury Post Office. The Post Office would, according to the communication, be closing on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018.

During the ensuing debate it was noted that thanks should be forwarded to Ms Wainwright who, along with her family, had run the local shop and latterly the Post Office for decades. It was also noted that with the closure of the Post Office, the post box outside the Post Office may be vulnerable to removal. It was therefore –

*Resolved – that the Clerk’s report be received and noted, that a letter of thanks and appreciation be forwarded to Ms Wainwright for her and her family’s long commitment to Drury and that a communication be forwarded to the Post Office advising it that the expression “temporary closure” was a misnomer as the Post Office in Drury was closing permanently and until someone was willing to take on the responsibility then there would be no Post Office in Drury. The Post Office to also be requested to enter negotiations with Ms Wainwright with regard to the potential for retaining the post box outside her premises for the time being.*

### **17344- SOCIAL MEDIA – A GUIDE FOR COUNCILLORS**

The Committee received a report from the Clerk, which advised that the Town Council had a Social Media Policy, which was introduced on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Enclosed with the Clerk’s report was a “Social Media - A Guide for Councillors” issued by the Welsh Local Government Association. The Clerk requested that the Committee should accept the Guide and it be regarded as an adjunct to the Town Council’s Social Media Policy. It was –

*Resolved – that the Clerk’s report be received and noted and that the Guide be accepted and regarded as an adjunct to the Council’s Social Media Policy.*

**17345- ITEMS TABLED FOR MEMBERS' PERUSAL**

The following items were tabled for Members' perusal: -

1. Wrexham – Bidston Rail User's Association – Autumn 2018 Newsletter.
2. Citizens Advice Flintshire – Annual Report 2017-2018.

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

**CHAIR**