

## 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

MBW/LG/TJR

Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**To: All Councillors**

Dear Councillor,

I enclose Agenda papers for the Meeting of the Town Council and the Meetings of the Standing Committees to be held in the Council Chamber, Buckley, on Tuesday next 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 commencing at 7pm. Meetings of the Standing Committees will be held in the order below:-

Highways and Leisure

Planning

General Purposes

Finance and Economic Development

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Wright', written over a horizontal line.

**Town Clerk and Financial Officer**

Enc

**HIGHWAYS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive and approve Declarations of Interest from Members in relation to any Agenda item on this Committee.

**3. MINUTES**

Authority is requested for the Chair to sign the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**4. FREE PARKING FOR DECEMBER IN BUCKLEY**

Members will recall that at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, under the Agenda heading of Town Centre Manager's Monthly Report, it was, in relation to the heading above, resolved, under minute 16362 that "... communications be forwarded to Flintshire County Council in relation to its refusal to allow free parking during December and the following questions be requested to be answered:-

1. It was acknowledged that the footfall that Buckley Town Council records, indicated a reduced footfall since car parking charges were introduced and that there were now more empty retail units than before car parking charges were introduced.
2. The reason given by one retailer who had left the town was that feedback he had received was that car parking charges deterred people using the Flintshire owned car parks.
3. To reiterate the Clerk's request made in his email of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016, could Flintshire County Council please provide the evidence to support the statement made in the Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation's email of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016.
4. It was noted that Chester and Wrexham would be removing car parking charges during December to encourage people into the two shopping centres. Why was Flintshire County Council different to the City of Chester and the Town of Wrexham in not wishing to encourage people into the shopping centres? What evidence did Flintshire have that Chester and Wrexham did not appear to have taken into account when making the decision about charging in December?
5. The statement that free parking would not be offered during December appeared to conflict with the County Council's actions in other towns eg. Flint, where a number of new free parking bays had been created in the town centre by the removal of a cycleway. Could Flintshire County Council not now review Buckley in relation to its comprehensive restrictions on parking on roads in and near the town centre?

The above resolution was the culmination of a number of email correspondences between the Clerk and the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Flintshire County Council. Following an enquiry from a Member of the Council, the Clerk wrote to the Chief Officer on 10<sup>th</sup> October requesting whether or not Flintshire County Council was considering assisting traders in Buckley (and possibly other towns in Flintshire) by removing the car parking charges

during the month of December 2016. The Chief Officer replied on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016 stating that the County Council had considered removing car parking charges for December, however, it had concluded that it should not suspend the car parking charges. The Chief Officer stated that "...car parking charges in Council owned car parks are set [at] a minimal level which supports local businesses by reducing the number of vehicles parked in the town centre car parks by commuters and businesses ... . This is particularly relevant during the busy period up to the festive period. The pay and display system promotes the short stay parking areas closest to the town centre, which ensures an effective turn over of vehicles in these facilities, thus providing continuous parking availability". The Clerk responded to the above email on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 questioning the Chief Officer's statement and provided evidence that the footfall in the town centre was falling. The Chief Officer replied on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 stating that a full review of car parking services had been carried out earlier in the year and that had resulted in a recommendation that no relaxation of charges would apply during the festive period. The Chief Officer also stated "As you have previously been made aware utilisation levels have increased in Buckley car parks since the introduction of charges and this justifies the statement made in my email".

In addition to the above emails the Clerk also emailed the Chief Officer on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 asking the five questions referred to above. The Chief Officer replied on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 answering the five questions. In relation to question 1 the Chief Officer stated that he was not aware of any footfall surveys completed in the town centre, which linked any reduction [in footfall] directly to the introduction of car parking charges. In answer to question 2 the Chief Officer stated that he had previously provided the information. In answer to question 3 he again stated that it was the decision of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which was approved by the Council's Cabinet. In answer to question 4 he referred to his previous responses, but does not address the question of Chester and Wrexham removing car parking charges during December. In answer to question 5 the Chief Officer stated that charges in Flint will be introduced once the development works within the town have been completed. He also states that no free parking arrangements had been introduced in the town, however, a request to divert a cycleway which would create a small number of short stay car parking areas was supported by the County Council subject to funding. He concludes by stating "The review of our car parking did support the introduction of free on street short stay parking where possible in every town and a review of options in Buckley was being considered along with every other town in the County". The Clerk also wrote to the Chief Officer on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 referring to his email of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016, but also enclosing an article in the Leader newspaper in relation to Flintshire County Council's decision not to allow free parking during December. The article indicated that the Deputy Leader of Flintshire County Council had stated that "This aspiration has been supported by increased utilisation levels in Buckley car parks since the charges were introduced". The Clerk therefore asked a further three questions in relation to the entirety of the Deputy Leader's statement to the newspaper. The Chief Officer responded on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 (not the email referred to above) and offered answers to the Clerk's questions (copies of all email correspondence enclosed).

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and enclosed correspondence and to decide what action, if any, it wishes to take on the matter.**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive and approve Declarations of Interest from Members in relation to any Agenda item on this Committee.

**3. MINUTES**

Authority is requested for the Chair to sign the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**4. WORDING TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE NOTIFICATION LETTER OF OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THIS COMMITTEE TO FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

As per minute 14488 of the October 2012 meeting of this Committee, the following wording will be placed at the head of the notification letter sent to Flintshire County Council in respect of planning application observations made by this meeting.

“The Town Council would wish you to formally note that the participation of those Town Councillors, who are also Members of Flintshire County Council, in both the debate and subsequent vote, at the Town Council Planning Committee, was on the basis that the views expressed by them were preliminary views taking account of the information presently made available to this Town Council. The County Councillors therefore reserved their final views on the application until they were in full possession of all relevant arguments for and against”.

The Committee is requested to receive, note and acknowledge that the above wording will be placed in the correspondence with Flintshire County Council, in relation to the notification of observations from this meeting.

**5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a) The Committee is requested to consider applications for planning consent which are listed below (copies enclosed).

<b><u>Plan No.</u></b>	<b><u>Location and Applicant</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Development</u></b>
056002	Old Market Flower Shop Brunswick Road Mr John Park	Variation of condition No. 5 attached to planning permission ref:041800 to change permitted taxi parking spaces
056023	81 Drury Lane Mr C R Muller	Demolition of existing dwelling and provision of access junction and access road

Please see attached the comments made in relation to the above planning application by Councillor C Preece.

Full details are available for perusal in the office and will be deposited in the Council Chamber from 6.30pm on the day of the Meeting.

(b) The following applications were dealt with in consultation with local Ward Members in view of the time limit for observations.

<u>Plan No.</u>	<u>Location, Applicant and Proposed Development</u>	<u>Observations</u>
055411	Flintshire Waste Management, Ewloe Barns Industrial Estate Mold Road, Ewloe Thorncliffe Building Supplies Erection of waste transfer building, ancillary development and storage bays, formation of additional hard standing, retention of boundary fencing and re-profiling of the southern mound	No observations

**6. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN –  
STRATEGIC OPTIONS – GROWTH AND SPATIAL OPTIONS**

Members will recall that the Clerk forwarded a letter to them on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, which enclosed a letter from Flintshire County Council with the title ‘Flintshire Local Development Plan – Strategic Options – Growth and Spatial Options’ (copy correspondence enclosed). The letter from the Clerk advised Members to consider the documents and to raise queries in relation to them at this meeting.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and enclosed correspondence and to decide what queries, if any, it wishes to forward to Flintshire County Council.**

**7. PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is the monthly update of planning decisions that have been notified to this Council by Flintshire County Council.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the spreadsheet.**

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive and approve Declarations of Interest from Members in relation to any Agenda item on this Committee.

**3. MINUTES**

Authority is requested for the Chair to sign the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**4. BUCKLEY PCSO UPDATE**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is the North Wales Police update for the Buckley area from 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The update provides an analysis of the types of incidents that have occurred during the above period. Members will note that the statistics provided are analysed into the four Wards of the town. As this Agenda item is discussed in an open forum, any reference to an individual or specific address has been deleted. This Agenda item has been distributed to the Buckley Library and the Press, following the issue of Agendas to Members.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above information.**

**5. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is the monthly report presented by the Town Centre Manager with regard to the vitality of the town centre and its retail/commercial outlets.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the enclosed report.**

**6. ANNUAL FIREWORK DISPLAY 2016**

The Annual Firework Display took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The details of the evening are contained within the Town Centre Manager's monthly report above.

The amount collected on the evening was £1,671.78, which will be shared equally between the North Wales Fire Service, Buckley Crew and the Mayor's Charity Account.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above and to note that the firework display contractor for 2017 will again be chosen by competitive tendering.**

**7. EMMANUEL PARISH CHURCH, BISTRE – CHURCHYARD**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is a letter from the Vicar of the Parish of Bistre. The letter informs the Council that there are currently less than 50 plots for burials in the Churchyard and that with the number of funerals and therefore burials currently being experienced it is estimated that in the next two to three years the Churchyard will be full.

The letter states that the land beyond the fence at the bottom of the Churchyard, although owned by the Church, is not likely to be developed by the Church for future burials. The reason for this is that the policy of the Church in Wales requires all maintenance costs to fall on the Church congregation. The Vicar also states that the land had been offered to Flintshire, who had declined, due to difficulties in access. The Vicar, therefore, wished to bring the matter to the Council's attention and to advise that once full the Churchyard will be closed to future burials except where that burial is in an existing family grave.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the correspondence.**

**8. BRIGHTER FUTURES TOGETHER**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is information provided by Councillor R B Jones in relation to the potential for creating a Credit Union within the Buckley community. Councillor Jones believes that in the climate of Bank closures in many towns it would be supported and Buckley might be a place to start.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and enclosures and to decide what action, if any, it wishes to take on the matter.**

**9. CORONATION GARDENS**

Members are requested to confirm their agreement to Coronation Gardens being closed to the public from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. This action was anticipated in the Approved Budget for 2016/17.

**The Committee is requested to confirm its agreement to the above.**

**10. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WAR MEMORIAL – PRECINCT WAY CAR PARK**

Members will recall that certain sums of money were due to be provided by Aldi under Section 106 Agreements in relation to the building of their new store. Sometime ago discussions were held with the Royal British Legion with regard to enhancing the current site of the War Memorial. Although not directly affected by this matter, the Clerk has maintained contact with both the British Legion and with Flintshire County Council Regeneration Department. Enclosed with this Agenda item is an email from Flintshire County Council's Regeneration Department outlining what could be achieved in utilising the larger of the two sums of money. The email encloses a costing estimate and outline plans of the potential improvements. The email requests the Town Council's agreement to the proposals.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and enclosures and to decide whether or not to agree with the proposals offered.**

**11. NON DOMESTIC RATE**

Following a recent revaluation of non domestic property rateable values, THE Town Council and all other commercial property owners in Buckley received a letter from Flintshire County Council entitled "Draft Rateable Value – Now Available". Also delivered was the Valuation Office Agency instruction sheet for reviewing the revised draft rateable value (copy of both documents enclosed).

It would appear from the revised valuations that Buckley values have increased whilst other areas in Flintshire have either remained the same or reduced.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and to decide what action, if any, it wishes to take on the matter on behalf of the commercial premises in Buckley.**

**12. ITEMS TABLED FOR MEMBERS' PERUSAL**

The following items are tabled for Members' perusal:-

1. The Magazine of The Buckley Society – No. 41 (2017)
2. County Forum – Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – covering email and enclosed documentation

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the items tabled for perusal.**



**FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive and approve Declarations of Interest from Members in relation to any Agenda item on this Committee.

**3. MINUTES**

Authority is requested for the Chair to sign the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**4. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The Committee is requested to approve for payment the accounts of the Council for the month of November 2016 (copy enclosed).

**5. BANK RECONCILIATIONS**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is a copy of the Bank Reconciliation for the two Bank Accounts and one High Interest Deposit Account administered by this Town Council for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

The Committee is requested to receive, note and approve the Bank Reconciliation for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

**6. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is a letter from Flintshire County Council entitled Town and Community Council Elections 2017. The letter indicates the likely estimated costs per Ward dependent upon the number of electors in each Ward. Using the latest information in relation to the number of electors in each Ward, the likely cost of the elections in 2017 is in the region of £17,000.00. The figure will be included in the Draft Budget for 2017/18 and the effects of the likely cost will be analysed.

The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and correspondence.

**7. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REFURBISHMENT OF PLAY AREAS**

The Clerk has been contacted by Flintshire County Council's Leisure Department who advise that there is money available in 2016/17 for match-funding refurbishment of play areas. Members will recall that no Budgetary provision was allowed for in 2016/17, this was because of the indications from Flintshire County Council with regard to the funding of play areas in conjunction with the Community Asset Transfers Programme. Should the Council approve a match-funded offer of £10,000.00 (the amount the Council normally Budgets for), the cost would have to be borne by a reduction in the General Reserve and/or the virement of savings from other Budget Heads should they become available.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and to decide whether or not it wishes to approve a figure of up to £10,000.00 for the refurbishment of a play area in Buckley during 2016/17.**

**8. WELSH BORDER COMMUNITY TRANSPORT –  
REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Enclosed with this Agenda item is a written request from Welsh Border Community Transport for financial assistance for the year 2017/18 in the sum of £5,707.00. Members will recall that by making the payment of financial assistance to Welsh Border Community Transport, the residents of Buckley using the services of the Charity do not pay for the journeys taken within Flintshire, whereas residents of other Town/Community Councils which do not financially support the Charity pay £1.00 per journey. The amount of financial assistance sought is the equivalent of the number of journeys undertaken within Flintshire for the previous year by Buckley residents.

**The Committee is requested to receive and note the above report and to be advised that the amount of money requested by Welsh Border Community Transport will be included in the Draft Budget for 2017/18.**

**9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and that they are instructed to withdraw.**