

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 JUNE 2023

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held at Hybrid Meeting on Tuesday, 20 June 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Gladys Healey (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, David Coggins Cogan, Geoff Collett, Steve Copple, Bill Crease, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Chrissy Gee, David Healey, Ian Hodge, Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Debbie Owen, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Ian Roberts, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Linda Thomas, Roy Wakelam, Arnold Woolley and Antony Wren

APOLOGIES: Councillors Helen Brown, Paul Cunningham, Jean Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Richard Lloyd, and Antony Turton

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Corporate Finance Manager, Head of Democratic Services, Corporate Manager – People and Organisational Development, Licensing Team Manager, Senior Manager – business Support and School Governance, Senior Manager Housing and Asset Management, Democratic Services Team and Fr. P. Wheeler for prayers

11. PRESENTATIONS

The Chair introduced the following awards:

Association of Public Service Excellence Performance Network Awards 2023 - Cemeteries and Crematoria – Most improved performer

The Chief Executive introduced and welcomed the following officers to the meeting to receive the award:

Richard Blake, Bereavement Services Manager
Andrea Green, Bereavement Services Officer

The Chief Executive reported that the Council's Bereavement Services Team had recently been awarded Most Improved Performer in the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) Performance Networks Awards 2023. Looking at the team's performance over the past three years, in areas such as service provision, budget management, quality assurance, and HR information, APSE could see strong evidence of continual improvement.

As members of APSE Performance Networks the Council is able to benchmark its performance against other similar services from across the whole

of the UK, sharing best practice and identifying areas for improvement. Up against Aberdeenshire, Lincoln, Cornwall, Moray, Northumberland and Warrington Councils, this is the second time the Council's Bereavement Services Team has received the most improved award; having previously won in 2019. The team also narrowly missed out on the overall title of Best Performer.

Partnership Awards 2023

Best Education and Higher Education Project – Mynydd Isa Campus

The Chief Executive introduced and welcomed the following officers to the meeting to receive the award:

Damian Hughes, Corporate Manager, Corporate Property and Assets
Jennie Williams, Senior Manager – Schools Planning & Provision
Christian Stanbury, CEO Welsh Education Partnership Company (WEPCo)

The Chief Executive reported that the Partnership Awards had been running for over 20 years and were recognised around the world as a watermark of excellence within the public-private partnership (PPP) industry. Facing stiff competition from projects across the UK, Australia, Belgium and the United Arab Emirates, the new campus at Mynydd Isa was recently awarded Best Education and High Education Project. This category was for all education and Higher education PPP projects. The Mynydd Isa Campus is a collaboration between Welsh Government, WEPCo and Flintshire County Council, and was judged using the following criteria:

- innovation in procurement, structure, finance
- effective risk assessment and transfer
- meeting or exceeding project milestones including financial close
- design quality and sustainability
- demonstration of the projects social value impact and the transformative effect it will have on the local community and users.

The new 3-16 campus will be both Net Zero carbon in construction and in operation. Scheduled for completion Autumn 2024, the Project was the first Mutual Investment Model (MIM) project in Wales to reach financial close.

Councillor Ian Roberts thanked both Teams for their work and dedication and congratulated officers on the awards which were well deserved.

Councillor Bernie Attridge reiterated the sentiments expressed by Councillor Roberts and added his thanks and congratulations to the Teams and all involved in achieving the awards.

12. TRIBUTES TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR TONY SHARPS

The Chair referred to the recent sad death of the late Councillor Tony Sharps. She expressed sincere condolences to his wife, family, friends, and the residents of his Ward, and invited Members to pay their tributes.

Councillor Ian Roberts lead the tributes. He spoke of his long association with Councillor Sharps and provided background information on his career with

the Council. He said he regarded Councillor Sharps as a special person who had left a valuable legacy to residents and communities in Flintshire. Councillor Roberts said he was saddened by the death of Councillor Sharps and was indebted to him for the advice and personal support he had given him when he had joined the Council. Councillor Roberts paid tribute to Councillor Sharps on behalf of the Labour Group and expressed his thanks for his dedicated contribution to Civic and Council duty.

Councillor Bernie Attridge paid tribute to Councillor Sharps on behalf of the Independent Group for his hard work in local government service. Councillor Attridge said he regarded Councillor Sharps as a personal friend as well as a colleague who he admired. He said he also remained indebted to Councillor Sharps for the guidance and support he had given him when he joined the Council. Councillor Sharps would be greatly missed and would be remembered for remaining true to his beliefs and principles.

Councillors Marion Bateman, Dennis Hutchinson, Carol Ellis, Christopher Bithell, and Hilary McGuill paid further tributes to Councillor Sharps. They spoke of his personal and professional qualities, his humour, kindness, strong values, and opinions. All Members said it had been a privilege to have known him personally and worked with him professionally. He was highly respected and valued for his inspiration, formidable work ethic, and many achievements and would be sadly missed.

Members extended their deepest sympathy to his family and friends on their loss.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dale Selvester and Councillor Ryan McKeown declared a personal interest on item 10: Draft Statement of Licensing Policy Review.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 17 March 2023, 4 May 2023 (10.00 am) and 4 May 2023 (1.00 pm) were received.

Accuracy - minutes 4 May 2022 (10.00 am)

Page 16 - minute number 105: Councillor Bernie Attridge referred to his comments at the end of page 16 and said he had been quoted as saying that in one service area there were "a high number of managers off at the same time". He asked that the wording be amended to read that he had said "a high number of employees off at the same time".

Accuracy - minutes 4 May 2022 (2.00 pm)

Page 19 – Councillor Dave Mackie drew attention to the start time of the meeting and said the time in the first sentence should be amended from 1.00 pm to 2.00pm.

Councillor Bernie Attridge moved the minutes subject to the above amendments. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Dolphin and on being put to the vote was agreed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2023 be approved as a correct record; and
- (b) That the minutes of the meetings held on 4 May 2023 be approved subject to the above amendments.

15. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair referred to her communication which had been circulated prior to the meeting and listed the events she had attended between 4 May 2023 and 20 June 2023. The Chair took the opportunity to say it was with deep regret that she had been unable to attend the funeral service of the late Councillor Tony Sharps and expressed her respects. She also thanked the Vice-Chair for attending the official opening of the Hippy Shop, Shotton, on her behalf. The Chair gave a brief overview of the events she and her consort had attended.

16. PETITIONS

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received.

17. COUNCIL PLAN 2023-28

The Chief Executive presented the report to approve the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 documents which outlined the actions, measures, and risks that underpinned the priorities, sub-priorities and well-being objectives of the Council Plan 2023-28. He provided background information and context and advised that the Council Plan for 2023-28 had been reviewed and refreshed to reflect the key priorities of the Council for the five-year term of the new administration. The 'super-structure' of the Plan comprised seven priorities and sub-priorities. The seven priorities took a long-term view of recovery, projects, and ambitions, over the next five years.

The Council Plan 2023-28 would be published in a similar format to previous years, identifying actions aimed at achieving the well-being objectives, priorities and sub-priorities. The national and regional issues/risks which could impact on the achievement of the priorities would be identified and monitored. Part 2 of the Council Plan would be considered by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees to ensure full coverage of Part 1 of the Council Plan 2023-28 and its respective measures and targets.

Councillor Ian Roberts spoke in support of the Plan. In recommending approval of the Council Plan, and Part 1 and Part 2 documents, he referred to the priorities, well-being objectives, and sub-priorities as detailed in the report. Councillor Billy Mullin seconded the proposal.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to the questions which had been raised on the Council Plan following consideration by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and asked for confirmation that the amendments recommended by the Committee had been incorporated in the Plan. The Chief Executive responded that the changes had been considered and were made where necessary. Councillor Jones referred to the specific questions he had raised on the Plan and the the responses he had received.

Councillor Richard Jones proposed the following amendments to the Council Plan and this was seconded by Councillor Bernie Attridge.

- Page 46 – Local Dementia strategy - Establishing a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience – by March 2024. Councillor Jones proposed that the target date be brought forward to December 2023.
- Page 90 – Safeguarding – Councillor Jones proposed that the target for adult safeguarding referrals within 7 days be increased from 92% to 96%

Councillor Mike Peers commented on the format of the Council Plan which he said could be improved. He suggested that the improvement measures were included immediately following the Council Plan item. He also referred to page 38 of the report and the priority Fuel Poverty and said that an estimate was needed of the number of homes and cost for reducing the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes.

Councillor Peers referred to the priority Housing Support and Homeless Prevention and drew attention to the June 2023 target date for Identifying a site for a young person's homeless hub offering accommodation and support services. He also referred to the priority A Well Managed Council, sub-priority People, and under the heading definition suggested that the word 'respond' be included. Councillor Peers referred to page 107 of the report and the target set for 2023/24 for the number of telephone calls to the corporate contact centre answered which he said was lower than the target for the previous year.

Councillor Andrew Parkhurst referred to page 40 of the report and the heading Empty Properties - removed – business as usual, and said that due to the current number of voids this seemed premature. On page 42, under the heading Active and Sustainable Travel, there was no mention of sustaining and improving bus services particularly in rural areas. Page 47, Specialist Education Provision had been removed from the Council Plan but there was no explanation why. On page 48, the priority A Well Managed Council, Councillor Parkhurst suggested that the Council's post-Covid working practices should be reviewed to ensure they worked for all stakeholders. On page 49 - Financial Resilience, Councillor Parkhurst said there was no mention of the increased settlement from Welsh Government. He commented on Flintshire's position in the Settlement and said that this was based on out of date information and that securing fair funding for Flintshire must be a top priority and should be included in the Council Plan. He proposed that the Council put forward a compelling business case to the Welsh Government for fair funding for Flintshire.

Councillor Bill Crease reiterated the concerns and said there were issues which required further consideration and debate.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for their comments and questions. He emphasised that the Council Plan was focused until 2028 and would be reviewed and modified annually. The Chief Executive responded to the points raised and explained that they had been considered in detail by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and officers and gave assurance that there would be further opportunities to influence and input into the Plan in the future.

The Chief Officer (Governance) provided further information in response to the comments raised around the performance of the Corporate Contact Centre.

The Senior Manager – integrated Services and Lead Adults responded to the points raised around safeguarding matters.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) responded to the questions around bus services and referred to the imminent review of the Integrated Transport Strategy

The Senior Manager, School Support and Governance, gave an assurance to Members that Special Educational Provision remained a key operational priority for the Education and Youth portfolio and would be reinstated as part of the strategic plan for the Council moving forward. She also explained that the actions for 2023/24 had been included in the area report to meet the needs of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act and to look at what in-house provision could be provided to reduce reliance on out-of-county provision.

Councillor Glyn Banks provided further explanation on the Settlement to give Members clarification around how the funding formula for Flintshire was determined. He referred to the correlation between Free School Meals and funding and commented on how deprived some areas were in Flintshire in comparison to some other Counties and cited as an example the higher take up of Free School Meals in Gronant and Greenfield when compared to Rhyl.

Councillor Banks emphasised the need for the Circular Economy to be considered more widely and not restricted to Flintshire by working in collaboration with neighbouring authorities. He also referred to the flexi transport scheme and the need for services to “cross over” between Councils to enable residents in Flintshire to visit their nearest town, citing the example of residents in Gwaenysgor, Flintshire, who were unable to use the flexi scheme to visit their nearest town Prestatyn, Denbighshire.

Councillor Banks also referred to the achievement measures and said there was no mention of Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP). He emphasised that going forward AHP product collection and recycling were critical to recycling figures in the County and on the need to progress the collection and recycling of AHP's.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) responded to the comments and concerns raised by Councillor Banks regarding the flexi transport

service and also explained why AHP materials had not been included in the Council Plan at this point in time.

The Chief Officer Governance gave advice to Councillor Jones on his proposal to omit support for the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) and advised that the Council had a legal statutory duty to pay the budget contribution to the CJC. He recommended that Councillor Jones withdraw that part of his amendments. This was agreed by Councillor Jones and by Councillor Attridge who had seconded the proposal.

As the substantive motion had been moved by Councillor Ian Roberts he was asked if he accepted the amendments proposed by Councillor Richard Jones. Councillor Roberts did not accept the amendments put forward by Councillor Jones. Councillor Roberts spoke on the points and concerns which were raised around the funding formula and agreed to the proposal by Councillor Andrew Parkhurst that the Council put forward a compelling business case to the Welsh Government for fair funding for Flintshire.

A recorded vote was requested on the following amendments and the requisite number of Members stood in support of this:

- Local Dementia strategy - Establishing a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience – by March 2024. Councillor Jones proposed that the target date be brought forward to December 2023.
- Safeguarding – to increase the target for adult safeguarding referrals within 7 days from 92% to 96%

The following Councillors voted for the amendments:

Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Marion Bateman, Steve Cople, Bill Crease, Rob Davies, Carol Ellis Chrissy Gee, Ian Hodge, Ray Hughes, Richard Jones, Dave Mackie, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Debbie Owen, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, David Richardson, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Linda Thew, Roy Wakelam, and Antony Wren

The following Members voted against the amendments:

Gladys Healey, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, Geoff Collett, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, David Evans, David Healey, Dave Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Simon Jones, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, Ian Roberts, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Linda Thomas and Arnold Woolley

The following Member abstained: Rosetta Dolphin

On being put to the vote the amendments were lost.

As there were no further amendments the substantive motion, as moved by Councillor Ian Roberts and seconded, was carried with the amendment that a compelling business case be submitted to the Welsh Government for fair funding for Flintshire

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 documents that outline the actions, measures and risks that underpin the Priorities, Sub-Priorities and Well-being objectives of the Council Plan 2023-28 be approved; and
- (b) That a compelling business case be submitted to the Welsh Government to request fair funding for Flintshire

18. ADOPTION OF SKIN PIERCING BYELAWS

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) introduced the report to recommend the adoption of byelaws in relation to skin piercing, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Part VIII, sections 14 to 17. He explained that the adoption of the byelaws would ensure greater regulation with respect to activities such as ear piercing, tattooing, acupuncture and electrolysis. The byelaws safeguarded the public and improved compliance.

The Chief Officer provided background information and advised that a consultation exercise was undertaken with stakeholders regarding the requirements of the byelaws and no adverse responses were received. In addition, the content of the proposed byelaws had been reviewed by the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee on 12 January 2023, and the changes requested were incorporated. The new bye-laws were endorsed by the Cabinet on 23 May 2023 and subject to approval by Council will come into force on 1 August 2023.

Councillor Chris Bithell moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Rob Davies seconded the proposal and when put to the vote the recommendations were carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the formal adoption of byelaws relating to skin piercing be approved; and
- (b) That the formal adoption of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Part VIII, sections 14 to 17, which will apply to the county of Flintshire as a whole with respect to skin piercing byelaws be approved

19. DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

Councillor Rosetta Dolphin, Chair of the Licensing Committee, introduced the report and moved the recommendation. The draft Licensing Policy was appended to the report and she drew attention to the consultations which had been undertaken as detailed. Subject to approval by Council the policy would come into force on 21 June 2023 and would be valid for three years. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Chris Bithell.

Councillor Mike Peers raised questions on the draft Policy concerning enforcement (including any breach of planning conditions), and the protection of children and young persons under the age of 18. Councillor Peers also asked if Members could be updated on the use of the Policy as at 1 March 2023 and any improvements which had been recommended at the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 1 March 2023.

Councillor Rosetta Dolphin provided feedback on the draft Licensing Policy which had been considered at the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 1 March, and confirmed that the Council employed its own Licensing Enforcement Officers who implemented and enforced the Policy as required by the Gambling Act 2005.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) also responded to the points raised by Councillor Peers and provided further information on the enforcement of licensing conditions and the team work alongside colleagues in Planning to address any complaints regarding the potential breach of planning conditions. The Chief Officer explained that work to update the Gambling Policy was undertaken in collaboration with other local authorities in North Wales to achieve consistency across the region in terms of aims and wording. He recommended for the purpose of enforcement that there was no further change to the section on Children and Vulnerable Persons as this reflected the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005

When put to the vote the recommendation in the report, as moved and seconded, was carried.

RESOLVED

That the draft statement of gambling policy be approved.

20. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD (PSB) WELL-BEING PLAN 2023-28

The Chief Executive presented the report to share the new five year Well-being Plan for Flintshire and Wrexham PSB and seek approval from Council, as a statutory member of the PSB, for the new Plan including the well-being objectives and next steps that the Council commits to take in collaboration with its PSB partner organisations. The Chief Executive provided background information and referred to the main considerations and key strategic actions as detailed in the report.

Councillor Christine Jones spoke in support of the Well-being Plan and moved the recommendation in the report. Councillor Billy Mullin seconded the proposal.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to the resource implications as detailed in section 2 of the report, and questioned why the Welsh Government supported the PSB on a regional level instead of providing local funding for the Flintshire County Council PSB. He expressed the need for local democracy and local control.

The Chief Executive responded to the comments and concerns expressed by Councillor Jones and advised that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 required specific public bodies to work together under a Public Services Board (PSB) to improve local economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being. He explained that the Flintshire and Wrexham PSB Well-being Plan 2023-28 was a strategic component in delivering the objectives of the Act as required by the Welsh Government.

Councillor Bernie Attridge supported the views expressed by Councillor Jones.

In response to a question from Councillor Mike Peers around funding for administrative support, the Chief Executive explained that the funding allocated supported the salary costs of one officer in Wrexham and one officer in Flintshire in addition to off-setting the other costs associated with administrative support.

Councillor Ian Roberts spoke in support of the Well-being Plan and on the need to work in collaboration with neighbouring authorities.

The Chair asked Members to vote on the recommendation in the report which had been moved and seconded.

A recorded vote was requested and the requisite number of Members supported this.

The following Councillors voted for the recommendation:

Gladys Healey, Mike Allport, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, Geoff Collett, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, David Evans, David Healey, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Simon Jones, Gina Maddison, Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, Ian Roberts, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Sam Swash, Linda Thomas, Roy Wakelam, and Arnold Woolley

The following Members voted against the recommendation:

Bernie Attridge, Steve Copple Bill Crease, Rob Davies, Ian Hodge, Richard Jones, Dave Mackie, Roz Mansell, Alan Marshall, Debbie Owen, Mike Peers, David Richardson, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Linda Thew, and Anthony Wren

On being put to the vote the recommendation was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Flintshire and Wrexham Wellbeing Plan for 2023-28 be approved.

21. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Sam Swash and seconded by Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson.

Ensuring Accountability in Flintshire's Residential Mobile Home Licencing

This Council notes:

1. That within Flintshire there are a number of residential mobile home sites Licensed by Flintshire County Council under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013;
2. That residential mobile home sites vary in size, with the largest in Flintshire being Willow Park in Mancot which provides residential mobile housing for more than 200 residents;
3. That site owners are licensed by Flintshire County Council to operate sites;
4. That currently neither the residents of the parks, nor Elected Members, are notified when an application for a site licence is made to the local authority; and
5. That currently neither residents of the park, nor Elected Members, are provided with an opportunity to make representations on the application for a site licence.

This Council believes:

1. That the current process for the granting of site licences for residential mobile home sites fails to sufficiently represent the residents of the sites or locally Elected Members;
2. That making decisions that profoundly impact the lives of hundreds of residents without their involvement is fundamentally undemocratic;
3. That before granting licences for residential mobile home sites, residents of the site, site owners, and locally Elected Members, should be notified and invited to make representations;
4. That given the size of residential mobile home sites, and the number of our residents which they home across Flintshire, there is a clear public interest in the decision to grant a site licence and the conditions attached to it; and
5. That the decision to grant a residential mobile home site licence should be one that is taken democratically by the Elected Members of the Licencing Committee, with representations invited from:
 - a) the site owner
 - b) the residents of the mobile home site
 - c) the elected representatives of the local ward, and
 - d) any other interested party.

This Council resolves:

1. That the decision to issue, renew, extend, vary, or not issue, site licences for residential mobile home sites should rest with the Licencing Committee, taking into account the advice of relevant officers;
2. That the schedule of officer delegation be amended accordingly;
3. That advance notice be given to Elected Members when a residential mobile home site in their ward will be subject to a decision on the issuing, renewal, extension, or variation, of a licence to enable them to make representations;
4. That the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee shall be tasked with agreeing a policy on minimum standards of resident consultation in respect of residential mobile home licencing ahead of decisions, and
5. That pending the completion and adoption of this policy, the Council will welcome and acknowledge any written correspondence received from residents of sites subject to licencing decisions, and recommends that requests to make representations to the Licencing Committee in person in respect of these decisions be handled in the same way as planning applications.

Councillor Sam Swash explained the reasons why he proposed the Notice of Motion to Council. He said that the Notice of Motion would give residents of Flintshire, and the local Elected Members who represented them, an “active voice” in the process of issuing and varying mobile home site licences and enable democratic decisions to be taken in a public forum and by Elected Members. He asked Members to support the Motion.

In response to the Notice of Motion, Councillor Chris Bithell advised that Flintshire County Council’s Constitution had made provision for the licensing of caravan and residential mobile home sites. Delegation rests with the Licensing Committee which in turn delegates the function to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), and in practice the applications were determined by experienced officers in the portfolio. It was, however, open to the Chief Officer to refer an application to the Licensing Committee, therefore. during the coming months the Chief Officer and his team would undertake to review the current arrangements taking on board the points raised in the Notice of Motion. In particular the Chief Officer and his team will look into developing a protocol that will alert local Members if an application for a residential mobile home site has been submitted in their ward.

Councillor Bithell also reported that, in conjunction with Legal and Democratic Services, a review of the Licensing Committee’s preparedness to determine such applications would be undertaken. The outcome of the review would be considered by the Licensing Committee in due course and thereafter the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee.

The Chief Officer (Governance) referred to the suggestion by Councillor Bithell that the Licensing Committee consider the outcome of the proposed

review of current arrangements prior to consideration by the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee and asked Councillor Swash if he accepted the change.

In response to the question from Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson on when the new procedures would become operational, the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) said work would be undertaken during the Summer and feedback provided to the Licensing Committee in the Autumn.

Councillor Swash sought confirmation from the Chief Officer (Governance) that in the interim Elected Members and residents would be allowed to make representations as requested in the Notice of Motion. The Chief Officer confirmed that there was no proposal to amend that part of the Motion. Councillor Swash accepted the change as suggested by Councillor Bithell. Councillor Ibbotson, seconder of the Motion, also accepted the change.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be received and supported.

22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

23. QUESTIONS

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

24. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

25. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.55 pm)

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Chairman