

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
4 DECEMBER 2024

Minutes of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, 4 December 2024.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson (Chair)

Mike Allport, Glyn Banks, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, David Coggins-Cogan, Geoff Collett, Steve Copple, Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Chrissy Gee, David Healey, Ian Hodge, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Fran Lister, Richard Lloyd, Gina Maddison, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, 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, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Ant Turton, Roy Wakelam, Arnold Woolley and Antony Wren

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Pam Banks, Gladys Healey, Andy Hughes, Roz Mansell, Linda Tomas, Dale Selvester and Jason Shallcross

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager, Corporate Property and Assets, and Strategic Finance Manager

50. TRIBUTES TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR VERONICA GAY [\(link to recording\)](#)

Members paid tribute to Councillor Gay and spoke of her personal qualities and skills, her valuable work as a former Member of the Council, and her dedication to the residents of her Ward. The Chair led a minute's silence as a mark of respect which was observed by all present. Members expressed their sincere condolences to her family and friends on their sad loss

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Christine Jones, Fran Lister, Hilary McGuill, Kevin Rush and Roy Wakelam declared a personal interest in agenda item number 16 – Notice of Motion (Making Schools Accessible to All).

Councillors Hilary McGuill and Ted Palmer declared a personal interest on agenda item 11 – Annual Performance Report.

52. MINUTES ([link to recording](#))

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 September 2024 ([minutes Agenda item 4](#)), and 24 October 2024 ([minutes Agenda item 4](#)) were presented for approval.

24 September 2024

Item 42 – Notice of Motion: Merchant Navy Roll of Honour. Councillor Coggins-Cogan said it had been agreed that the Notice of Motion be amended to reflect that the Roll of Honour would include all Merchant Navy mariners who had died in the course of their duty and not restricted to “at sea”.

Notice of Motion: Three-weekly Bin Collections. Councillor Coggins-Cogan said the decision and subsequent vote taken to defer the Notice of Motion to the next scheduled meeting of the County Council had not been recorded in the minutes.

Item 32 – Declarations of Interest. That the minutes be amended to reflect that Councillor Pees made a personal declaration of interest in respect of the Notice of Motion on Winter Fuel Payments

24 October 2024

Councillor Coggins-Cogan referred to page 16 of the minutes and said that the decision to adjourn the meeting had not been recorded.

The Chief Officer (Governance) responded that the minutes would be amended to record that Members voted in accordance with the procedural rules to adjourn the meeting at 5.00 p.m.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendments listed above, the minutes of the meetings held on 24 September, and 24 October 2024 be approved as a correct record.

53. CHAIR’S COMMUNICATIONS ([link to recording](#))

The Chair drew attention to the communication which had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting and listed the events attended from 25 September to 4 December 2024.

54. PETITIONS ([link to recording](#))

Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson submitted a petition from residents of the Penyffordd Ward who were concerned about the current School Transport Policy.

At this point Councillor Ibbotson proposed, in accordance with procedural rule 12, that the order of business for the meeting be adjusted to bring forward the Notice of Motion on Making Schools Accessible to All. This was seconded and when put to the vote was agreed.

Following a suggestion by Councillor Ted Palmer it was agreed that the second Notice of Motion listed on agenda item 16 - North Wales Police and the events week commencing 29 July 2024, would also be brought forward.

55. NOTICE OF MOTION ([link to recording](#))

The Chair advised that the following Notices of Motion had been submitted:

Notice of Motion: Making Schools Accessible to All

Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson introduced the Notice of Motion ([Agenda item 16](#)) which was seconded by Councillor Carolyn Preece

Councillor Paul Johnson moved an amendment to the Notice of Motion. This was duly seconded by Councillor Teresa Carberry. When put to the vote the amendment was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Officers develop a paper for consideration of Members on this issue with all the background to the current policy, Member concerns, the Learner Travel Measure, cross-border issues, the costs of the current policy and the cost pressures around further potential expansion of the discretionary policy:
- (b) That the paper also sets out the potential steps and timescales for a full consultation and the resources required:
- (c) That the paper is presented to the all-Member workshop which is planned for Spring 2025 and an outcome report is then presented to the Education, Youth and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration and take action as it considers necessary; and
- (d) That the Cabinet Member for Education and the Chair of Education, Youth and Culture Scrutiny Committee reports back to Full Council on the outcomes resulting from this motion before the end of June 2025.

Notice of Motion: North Wales Police and the events week commencing 29 July 2024

Councillor Gina Maddison introduced the Notice of Motion ([Agenda item 16](#)). This was seconded and when put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Leader of Flintshire County Council and the Chief Executive write a formal letter of thanks to North Wales Police on behalf of officers and Members, for their actions during this terrible time.

56. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL [\(link to recording\)](#)

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented the report [\(agenda item 7\)](#)

Councillor Coggins-Cogan referred to section 1.03 (c) of the report and proposed that the period of incapacitation be reduced to 3 months. This was seconded by Councillor Andrew Parkhurst.

Councillor Ian Hodge proposed that the period of incapacitation remained at 6 months or more. This was seconded by Councillor Ted Palmer and when put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Constitution is amended in accordance with the report to require a new Leader to be appointed either:

- (a) At the next available County Council meeting whenever the office falls vacant, or
- (b) Immediately after the Leader is removed by a motion on notice; and
- (c) That the Leader will hold office until they are unable to perform the duties and responsibilities of Leader due to incapacitation whether through illness; injury or some other reason, for a period of 6 months or more.

57. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 – 2027/28 [\(link to recording\)](#)

The Corporate Manager, Corporate Property and Assets introduced the report [\(agenda item 8\)](#). The Strategic Finance Manager gave a presentation on the Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28.

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the allocations and schemes in Table 3 (paragraph 1.09) for the Statutory/Regulatory and Retained Assets sections of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28 be approved; .
- (b) That the schemes included in Table 4 (paragraph 1.31) for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28 be approved; .
- ;
- (c) That the shortfall in funding of schemes in 2027/28 in Table 5 (paragraph 1.35) although there are surplus in years prior be noted; and.
- (d) That the schemes included in Table 6 (paragraph 1.39) for the specifically funded section of the Council Fund Capital Programme, which will be funded in part through borrowing, be approved.

58. CAPITAL STRATEGY INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2025/26 – 2027/28 ([link to recording](#))

Councillor Paul Johnson moved the recommendations in the report ([Agenda item 9](#)) and this was seconded. When put to the vote the following recommendations were carried:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Capital Strategy be approved; and
- (b) That the following be approved:
 - The Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 - 2027/28 as detailed within Tables 1, and 4 – 8 of the Capital Strategy;
 - Delegated authority for the Corporate Finance Manager to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (Table 6 of the Capital Strategy).

At this point the meeting was paused for a 10 minute break

59. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 ([link to recording](#))

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced the report ([Agenda item 10](#)) to present the draft Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24 for approval.

The recommendation in the report was moved and seconded and when put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2023/24 be approved.

60. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT ([link to recording](#))

The Chief Executive introduced the report ([Agenda item 11](#)) to seek approval of the Annual Performance Report 2023-24, noting the Council Plan (2023-28) end of year performance for 2023-24.

Councillor Mike Peers expressed concerns that the Council Plan End of Year Monitoring Report lacked cross-references to detail and asked that this be addressed before the document was published. The Chief Officer (Governance) acknowledged the point raised and agreed to try to seek a solution.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Performance Report 2023/24 combined with the Council Plan End of Year 2023/24 Performance Report be approved and the performance achieved noted.

61. APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ([link to recording](#))

In accordance with the Constitution, Councillor Dave Hughes, Leader of the Council, set out his choice of Councillors to serve on the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the choice of Councillors to serve on the Cabinet and their portfolios detailed below, be noted.

Councillor Christine Jones	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Councillor Richard Jones	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets
Councillor Glyn Banks	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation
Councillor Chris Bithell	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health, and Public Protection
Councillor Helen Brown	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Councillor Chris Dolphin	Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate
Councillor Mared Eastwood	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Councillor Paul Johnson	Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value
Linda Thomas	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

62. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ([link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented the report ([Agenda item 13](#)) to review the Political Balance and the allocation of seats on Committees

Councillor Richard Lloyd proposed that a group of 5 or more Members should have an automatic place on the Planning committee. This was seconded by Councillor David Evans.

Councillor Sean Bibby proposed that Councillor Hilary McGuill be appointed as Chair of the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee. This was seconded.

At this point the meeting was paused for a 10 minute break.

When the meeting reconvened Members were asked to vote on the following proposal which had been moved and seconded:

That Version 6 of the political balance calculation be approved subject to the following :

- That Flintshire People's Voice have 1 seat on Planning Committee and 1 seat on Climate Change Committee;
- That True Independents have 2 seats on Planning Committee and 1 seat on Climate Change Committee; and
- that any Group with 5 or more Councillors should have at least 1 seat on the Planning Committee.

When put to the vote this was carried.

Members were asked to vote on the following proposal which had been moved and seconded:

- That Councillor Hilary McGuill be appointed as Chair of the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee, noting that to facilitate the appointment the Labour Group have allowed the Liberal Democrats Group to occupy 1 of their seats.

When put to the vote this was carried.

Members were asked to vote on the following proposals for Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

Councillor Dave Hughes, Leader of the Council, nominated :

- Councillor David Evans as Chair of Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- Councillor Teresa Carberry as Chair of Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Helen Brown nominated:

- Councillor Bill Crease as Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was further agreed that:

- Flintshire People's Voice would nominate the Chair of Social & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- True Independents would nominate the Chair of Community & Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

When put to the vote the proposals were carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Version 6 of the political balance calculation be approved subject to the following :
- That Flintshire People's Voice have 1 seat on Planning Committee and 1 seat on Climate Change Committee;
 - That True Independents have 2 seats on Planning Committee and 1 seat on Climate Change Committee; and
 - that any Group with 5 or more Councillors should have at least 1 seat on the Planning Committee.
- (b) That Councillor Hilary McGuill be appointed as Chair of the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee; and
- (c) That Councillor David Evans be appointed as Chair of Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

That Councillor Teresa Carberry be appointed as Chair of Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

That Councillor Bill Crease be appointed as Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

That Flintshire People's Voice nominate a Chair of Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

That True Independents nominate a Chair of Community & Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

63. SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE ([link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Governance) introduced a report ([Agenda item 14](#)) to consider and make recommendations on the proposed scrutiny arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee. The report contains draft terms of reference for the proposed Joint Overview and Scrutiny Body.

Councillor Ian Hodge proposed the recommendations in the report and this was seconded.

Councillor Dave Mackie proposed the following amendment to the recommendations: “that a Joint Committee be formed and the membership be changed so that there are 2 non-executive members on the Joint Committee”. This was seconded but when put to the vote was lost.

Members were asked to vote on the original motion, as moved by Councillor Ian Hodge, on whether the Authority should join a Joint Scrutiny Committee with 2 members (1 of which cannot be on an executive group). When put to the vote this was lost.

The Chief Officer (Governance) agreed to provide feedback to Gwynedd County Council on Members’ views on the proposal to establish the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and seek fresh proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Officer (Governance) agreed to provide feedback to Gwynedd County Council on Members’ views on the proposal to establish the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and seek fresh proposals.

64. CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE ([link to recording](#))

Councillor Davie Hughes, Leader of the Council, proposed that the item ([Agenda item 15](#)) be deferred to a future meeting of the County Council. This was seconded and when put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred.

65. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None were received.

66. QUESTION TIME [\(link to recording\)](#)

The Chief Officer (Governance) referred to the following questions, as detailed in the agenda:

- Questions deferred from County Council meeting held on 24 October, 2024 ([Agenda item 18](#))
- Questions received since the County Council meeting held on 24 October, 2024 ([Agenda item 18](#))

Councillor Dave Hughes, Leader of the Council, Councillor Glyn Banks (Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation), Councillor Chris Dolphin (Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate), and Councillor Mared Eastwood (Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure), responded to the questions and supplementary questions raised.

67. QUESTION FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES

None were received

68. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 1.00 p.m. and ended at 5.10 p.m.)

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Chair

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