

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the **Special Meeting of Holywell Town Council** held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell, on Tuesday, 29th July 2025 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Sprake (Mayor).

Councillors: L. Corbett, P. Corbett, P. Curtis, I. Hodge, L. Hodge, M. Lewis-Jones, E.B. Palmer, and D. Thomas.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs P.A. Johnson and D. Smith. Cllrs C. Argent, C. Blackwell, P. Cooper, and S. Rush were absent without apology.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Baker (Clerk).

38. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT**

Agenda Item	Name of Councillor	Personal	Prejudicial	Nature of Interest
3.	I. Hodge	✓		County Councillor – Matter Relating to Public Toilets
3.	E.B. Palmer	✓		Public Toilets in County Councillor’s Portfolio

39. **HOLYWELL PUBLIC TOILETS**

The Council had received a letter from Flintshire County Council on Thursday 24th July 2025 informing them of the County Council’s intention to cease the direct operation of the public toilet facilities in Holywell from Monday 8th September 2025. This decision was due to the removal of the revenue budget available to operate the facilities for the financial year 2025/26, as part of Flintshire County Council’s budget setting process in February 2025. Flintshire County Council were also seeking expressions of interest for the transfer of ownership of these facilities.

Members raised concerns at the manner in which the closure of the toilets had been communicated and that consultation should have been undertaken prior to any announcement on closure.

Members stated that the closure was at odds with the Flintshire County Council Plan’s corporate objectives, and could affect vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled, and cause public health issues.

County Councillor E.B. Palmer reported that he was advised that no public toilet would close without full and proper consultation, but if town and community councils do not show any interest in taking them over, they may close.

Members stated there was a duty of care to the public and that a risk/impact assessment should be undertaken to evaluate the impact to local residents.

A petition was being circulated and had 500 signatures so far. Cllr D. Thomas was advised to forward the final petition onto the Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council.

Members suggested a public statement should be published on the Council's social media channels to relay the facts and confirm the Council's position.

County Councillors confirmed that a Special Meeting of Flintshire County Council had been called to discuss the matter on Thursday 7th August.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That a public statement be published on the Council's social media channels to state the current facts and the Council's position, regarding Holywell Public Toilets.
- 2) That the Clerk writes a letter to the Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council to confirm the following points:
 - That the Council were disappointed that the public toilets were closing and reiterate their importance to the town, and that they should remain open and operational.
 - That the Council already contribute to the running of Holywell Leisure Centre which impacts on the local taxation precept charged to local residents.
 - That the Town Council cannot make a decision until financial costs were confirmed, broken down to cost centre level.
 - That the decision to close the toilets contradicts the Flintshire County Council Plan's Wellbeing Objectives and Economy Priorities.

- That a risk assessment be completed to evaluate the impact the closure would have to residents, shoppers, and visitors to Holywell, including vulnerable groups.

40. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 6.40pm.

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Mayor