

**Minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting of
HAWKWELL PARISH COUNCIL**
held on
Monday, 20th June 2011
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford
at 7.30pm.

In the Clerks absence Cllr J Dickson was appointed as the Proper Officer for the meeting.

Prior to the meeting the Chairman announced the sad news of the death of Dave Perry, former Councillor and Clerk, and acknowledged the work he did for the Parish over many years. The Chairman also announced the death of Frank, husband to Councillor Cindy Cunningham, our thoughts are with our colleague at this sad time.

Councillors Present: Chairman V Leach, Vice Chairman J Dickson, Mrs J Barney, Mrs A Heath, R Mitchell, D Weir, Mrs M Weir, A Williams and Mrs P Young.

41. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Mrs Chippette (other appointment), Cllr Mrs Cunningham (compassionate) & Cllr R Patient (holiday). Members accepted the apologies tendered. Apologies were also received from S Mennell, Clerk (prior engagement) and Denise Hodgson (holiday).

42. Declarations of Interest on any matter on agenda for 20th June 2011:
None.

43. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of Hawkwell Parish Council held on 6th June 2011 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:
The Minutes were agreed.

44. Approve £5k from reserves for legal fees in respect of fighting the Christmas Tree Farm application:

Prior to the opening of debate the Chairman asked Council to accept into the minutes the notes provided by the Clerk and Proper Officer setting out the proposed Motion, copy of letter lodged with RDC in respect of the Christmas Tree Farm development, the need to identify a firm equipped to provide planning advice, (it was pointed out that the journal referred to is called The Journal of Local Planning), to seek advice to determine whether to pursue legal advice, the form of any legal challenge and affordability in respect of Councils reserves policy. This was accepted into the Minutes.

The background notes drafted by the Chairman in respect of the housing requirements of Rochford District were also accepted into the minutes.

Councillor Williams sought more background as to how we had arrived at the point of time and the Chairman verbally updated Council in respect of Rochford Districts Core Strategy, Councillor Dickson sought assurance that no monies would be spent prior to seeking advice in respect of the level of success and a referral back to Council. This assurance was given by the Chairman. Councillor Mrs Heath pointed out that this planning application contradicted our policy and that this Council, particularly under those circumstances, should be seen to be supporting Parishioners.

There being no further questions or comments the Chairman moved the Motion **‘That this Council approves the ear marking of £5,000 from General Reserve to be used, if necessary, for the provision of legal advice and or representation in challenging any decision by the Planning Authority to approve the planning application by David Wilson Homes for 176 house to be built on land known as the Christmas Tree Farm’** which was seconded by Councillor Mrs Heath. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman