

**Minutes of a meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 8th February 2010
In the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford**

Committee Members Present: Chairman Cllr A James, Mrs T Bateman, Mrs J Fern, Mrs A Heath, K Holmes, V Leach, R Patient, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

1) Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllrs Mrs H Glynn (another meeting), Mrs C Cunningham (unwell) and R Mitchell (prior appointment). Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.

2) Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Financial Report:

The Clerk went through the Financial Report and advised GP and Youth would be below budget at the end of the year. Members accepted the Financial Report.

4) Actions List Update:

The Clerk went through the action point update list.

- **Village Plan Project:** The Clerk advised that the Neighbour Hood Policeman Steve Joynes had indicated his wish to attend Clerk to liaise re meeting date.
- **Clerk to identify seats in need of repair and seek new locations for seats:** Ongoing.
- **Gain permission to decorate 2/3 trees with Xmas lights/Request permission to erect Seasonal Decoration over the highway:** The Clerk clarified the working group was made up of Cllrs Mrs Glynn, Patient and Mrs Weir. Cllr Patient reported that he had met with Cllr Mrs Glynn and she was aware of the need to reconvene the working group and would contact the Clerk.
- **Village Fayre:** Cllr Leach announced he hoped to call a meeting over the next 10 days.
- **No 8 Bus Service:** Cllr Mrs Weir reported that ECC had indicated they were in talks about the no.8 service. Cllr James said he had heard that the temporary no.7 service had been made permanent.
- **Clerk to check progress of light out in alleyway at Hawkwell Chase:** Ongoing.
- **New Parish Office sign at Hawkwell Village Hall:** The Clerk advised he had not yet spoken to the Village Hall and felt there was no point in doing so until ownership and stats details were received. Cllr Mrs Weir informed that the Village Hall Committee had raised the state of the notice board at their last meeting.

5) ECC – Street Lighting Private Initiative (PFI):

The committee debated the PFI at length, the likely costs involved, benefits, pitfalls and generally felt the initiative would not be cost effective in the Parish of Hawkwell. **Cllr Holmes proposed that Council continue with the current method of management of lighting and ignore the letter. Cllr Patient seconded and the motion was carried.**

6) Request for improvements to bus shelter (corner of Stanley Road):

Cllr Mrs Weir reported that at the last passenger transport meeting it was asked if there was still finance for spending and the meeting was told there was. She also reported a Parish

Councillor had complained at the CAC meeting about County Council putting in new bus shelters without consulting them. Cllr Mrs Weir asked if the Clerk could make enquiries re the supply of new bus shelters. Members felt it was worth following up and the Clerk was instructed to contact the ECC.

7) Salting of Footpaths in severe weather:

The Clerk asked Members to consider an initiative to buy salt in the summer to put into store in preparation to help the community in the severe weather, specifically Golden Cross and White Hart shopping areas, Village Hall and alleyways and the possible purchase of a fertilizer spreader for use in conjunction with the tractor to spread salt. Members discussed at length.

- The Clerk advised spreading of salt was the responsibility of ECC but HPC would be helping the community in times of great difficulty.
- Cllr Leach asked if HPC still had salt bins and were they stocked?
- The Clerk confirmed that was the case however half way through the bad weather people took most for their driveways.
- Cllr Patient felt it was a tremendous initiative from the Clerk helping the community with the tractor. He agreed the shopping areas should be salted first, being where everybody needed to get access to locally.
- Cllr Mrs Heath asked if ECC could be requested to put more salt bins out and the Clerk clarified that the salt bins belonged to HPC but ECC filled them.
- Cllr Mrs Heath queried if more bins could be bought.
- Cllr Holmes disagreed with funding a spreader due to limited use, having to store it and it getting in the way in the store.
- The Clerk advised the cost would be £885 for a fertilizer spreader which could spread salt in half an hour to both shopping sites above and maximise the impact by the coverage. He suggested the equipment together with the salt could be purchased for around £1500.
- Cllr Holmes felt strongly that it was an expense for equipment to lie around.
- Cllr Patient was of the opinion that once it was purchased it would only require a small amount of maintenance and new tyres over a period of time, the tractor could go through most conditions, the store was available to keep the salt, he thought it was a fantastic idea and at that stage he supported the initial findings and hoped Members would support it.
- Cllr Mrs Bateman thought it was a great idea and asked if there was any leverage in speaking to Hockley Parish Council to see if they would share the cost of the equipment.
- The Clerk was concerned that if such an approach was taken, HPC could help other parishes but where would it stop, HPC could end up doing the whole of the Spa Road!
- Cllr Mrs Bateman debated if the equipment was only going to be used on a number of areas it would be worth looking at.
- Cllr Mrs Heath was in favour of buying bins of salt but concerned that it might not snow again for the next 2 years not justifying purchase of spreader.
- The Clerk commented that the spreader could be used for top dressing etc in the parks.
- Cllr Mrs Weir said she agreed on the salt.
- Cllr Leach said he had no issues with the principle but there was a need to look at the practicality of the spreader for use on the footpaths at Golden Cross and Whitehart shops due to the steps at both shopping areas, he felt an element of hand spreading would remain.

The Clerk was requested to look at costs and feasibility and come back.

8) Changes to Bus Services:

Members noted the letter from ECC.

9) Summary of actions/decisions:

- The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Mrs Glynn to reconvene the Christmas Lights working group.
- Agreed no action be taken regarding ECC – Street Lighting PFI letter.
- The Clerk to contact ECC to enquire after the new bus shelters.
- The Clerk to come back with costs and feasibility of salting of footpaths in severe weather.

Chairman