

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

Committee Members Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs H Glynn, Cllrs Mrs T Bateman, Mrs C Cunningham, Mrs J Fern, Mrs A Heath, K Holmes, A James, V Leach, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

Also Present: Mrs J Barney.

Due to the Finance Meeting finishing at 7.35pm and the Agenda stating the General Purpose Meeting was scheduled to start at 8pm 'or on the rising of the Finance Committee', the Chairman asked Members if they wished to commence the meeting immediately or await the rest of the Committee Members - Cllrs Mrs Heath and James to arrive and start at 8pm. There was a debate and some Members felt strongly that the meeting should start at 8pm but the majority felt it should commence immediately on the rising of Finance. The Chairman requested it be noted that **"I declare that on the acceptance of Members we have agreed to go forward and start the General Purposes meeting before 8pm; Cllrs Mrs Heath and James are expected, however most Members wanted to carry on with the meeting rather than wait"**.

1) Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllrs J Dickson (another meeting), R Mitchell (another meeting) and R Patient (funeral). Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.

2) Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2010 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:

Members approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2010 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting.

4) Actions List Update:

The Clerk went through the action point update list.

- **Village Plan Project:** The Clerk updated that officers had been appointed and they were coming into the office to meet with him on Friday. Cllr Mrs Weir proposed the sum of £300 be given to the group reflecting the sum granted to the earlier group to get them started until they apply for a grant. She also advised they had requested to see a definitive map showing the boundaries of the Parish and she thought it would be a good idea to publish a map in the newsletter, this was debated. The Clerk said he could show them a map on Friday and he would assist them in making an application for a grant. In querying which cost centre the pump priming grant would come from Cllr Holmes proposed the request for £300 be passed to the Finance Committee, Cllr Weir agreed and questioned why it hadn't been addressed by Finance already. The Clerk offered to ask the appointed officer to write a letter requesting a grant of £300 which would be put to the next Finance Committee. The Chairman asked Members if they were happy with that and they were.
- **Clerk to identify seats in need of repair and seek new locations for seats:** No response from ECC yet.

- **Gain permission to decorate 2/3 trees with Xmas lights/Request permission to erect Seasonal Decoration over the highway:** Working Group meeting 17th March.
- **Village Fayre:** Ongoing.
- **No 8 Bus Service:** Cllr Mrs Weir reported good news, she had read in the paper that nos.7 & 8 were likely to get a half hourly service commencing May, although she had not been informed of this officially as the Parish Representative. The Chairman suggested Cllr Mrs Weir get an update from the Transport Liaison Group as to the times and date of the new services.
- **Clerk to check progress of light out in alleyway at Hawkwell Chase:** Ongoing.
- **New Parish Office sign at Hawkwell Village Hall:** Ongoing.
- **Clerk to contact ECC to enquire about new bus shelters:** Bid made, decision awaited. The Chairman added that the type of bus shelter could be seen opposite the Anne Boleyn Pub.
- **Research cost and feasibility of salting footpaths in severe weather:** Currently researching the process of buying a piece of equipment to spread the salt manually.

5) **Financial Report:**

The Clerk went through the Financial Report and advised in Month 12 General Purposes would be significantly under spent unless money was spent on for example, bus shelters. Regarding Youth, the Chairman asked the Clerk to advise Members that a CIF bid was made to undertake a study and 50% had been awarded. The Jewson building had been considered but was extremely expensive. Since being awarded the grant the clerk had received a phone call from a developer regarding the site and a letter would be sent. Cllr Holmes queried who would be coordinating the actions and the Chairman replied there was a Working Group meeting scheduled for 17th March. She added that she had contacted the officer at the Council via a letter informing them HPC had identified the site as a possible part of the youth project for a hall/youth centre and now was the time to put ideas to them as quickly as possible. Members accepted the Financial Report.

6) **Letter from ECC re. Essex Heritage:**

The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs Weir, as Chair of Planning, if she would like to be involved and Cllr Mrs Weir responded that she would like to view the document accompanying the letter. Members noted the letter.

7) **Review of Christmas Parcels:**

The Clerk referred Members to his report and added there were just 6 boxes of biscuits left in the office. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Mrs Weir and her team. Cllr Holmes suggested an article noting the accomplishments of the Christmas Parcel Group be featured in the newsletter to make a nice accolade of HPC's efforts to summarise what has been done and quote some of the public feedback. Cllr Mrs Glynn proposed from the Chair that the Newsletter Committee be approached and Members unanimously agreed. Cllr Mitchell asked what the criteria was to enable one to receive a parcel and it was confirmed a person living alone in the parish over the age 60 years.

8) **Summary of actions/decisions:**

- The Clerk to ask the Village Plan Group to write a letter requesting a pump priming grant for £300 and to provide a definitive map showing the parish boundaries.
- The Clerk to approach the Newsletter Committee to look at a feature on Christmas Parcels.

After the meeting closed at 8.10pm Members began a lengthy debate on starting the meeting on the rising of the Finance Committee resulting in 2 committee Members missing some of the

proceedings. Cllr Leach as Chair of Council asked Members to put their views in writing to enable them to be presented at the Annual General Meeting, being the correct forum for a collective decision to be taken going forward.

Chairman