

**Minutes of a meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 9th March 2009
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford**

Committee Members Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs H Glynn, Vice Chairman Cllr A James, Cllrs Mrs C Cunningham, Mrs J Fern, Mrs A Heath, V Leach, R Patient, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

Also Present: Cllrs Mrs J Barney and Mrs T Bateman.

1) Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllrs J Dickson (other meeting), K Holmes (holiday) and R Mitchell (other meeting).
Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.

2) Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) To approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th February 2009 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting: In going through the Minutes, the Chairman referred Members to the Youth Project (item 4. Actions List Update) and informed Members that the Youth Shelter at Clements Hall had been severely vandalised. The Chairman gave details of the vandalism and a lengthy discussion followed. The Chairman advised Members Council had one month, before the artist was due to return, to decide whether it would be in a position to go ahead with the Graffiti artwork. She asked Members if they agreed in principle to carry out repairs to the Shelter, a vote was taken and Members voted unanimously in agreement. The Chairman asked the Clerk to take photos along with him to the NAP's meeting he was attending together with Cllr Mrs Heath the next day.

Members approved the Minutes of 16th February 2009 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes.

4) Actions List Update:

The Clerk updated Members on the progress.

- **Village Plan Project:** Ongoing.
- **Provide CCTV point for Hawkwell Shops. Ask shopkeepers for contribution:** Ongoing.
- **Clerk to identify seats in need of repair and seek new locations for seats:** New seat to be sited adjacent to bus stop on B1013 opposite White Hart. The Clerk asked Members if they felt he should consult residents. Cllr Mrs Weir felt at least the residents behind the bus stop on that side of the road and the Chairman felt up to 10 houses should be consulted. The Clerk clarified did Members want consultation rather than a notice and Members agreed they did.
- **Parish Identity Working Group – new office sign:** A provisional date of 25th March 2009 was agreed for the Working Group to meet. The Clerk to write to Members of the working Group to invite and confirm.
- **Cleaning of bus shelters:** Ongoing.
- **Parish Seats:** The Clerk had purchased 4 Countryside benches and 3 new KC seats these were due to on Wednesday. The Clerk said he would like, with Members agreement, to put a new seat at the southern end of the pond and 2 in the open space adjacent to the

church. The Chairman queried would that come under Parks & Open Spaces or General Purposes and the Clerk confirmed it would come under Parks as it was an open space. The Chairman asked the Clerk to put it to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee. Cllr Mrs Weir suggested placing a seat at Ironwell Lane on the triangle. The Chairman felt this would cause sight splay difficulty and the Clements Hall side of the road was more suitable. Cllr Mrs Heath suggested one might be considered for Spencers. The Chairman asked Members if they were happy with that. Cllr James confirmed he agreed with Ironwell Lane, Cllr Mrs Heath suggested the end of Thorpe Road but Cllr Mrs Weir pointed out that there were already 2 next to bus stop only a few yards away.

- **Gain permission to decorate 2/3 trees with Xmas lights/Request permission to erect Seasonal Decoration over the highway:** See agenda item 9.

5) Financial Report:

The Clerk went through the report. The Chairman asked Members for any questions, there were none and Members accepted and agreed the Financial report.

6) To appoint Members of a Working Group and agree a date for first meeting for Village Fayre:

The Chairman requested those Members wishing to sit on the Working Group to show hands. Cllrs Mrs J Barney, Mrs T Bateman, Mrs A Heath, V Leach, R Patient and Mrs Weir volunteered and the Working Group was agreed. A meeting date of 12th March 2009 at 2.30pm in the Annex to Parish Office was agreed upon. The Chairman asked Members to inform other Members of HPC if they wished to join the Working Group. Cllr Mrs Barney asked if a date for a Fayre would be discussed at the Working Group and the Chairman responded it was up to the Working Group to decide.

7) To note purchase of seats from CIF grant and consider locations:

The Clerk advised the 3 KC seats would arrive on Wednesday and he had the Benches already. Members felt this issue had been adequately discussed above in item 4 Action Point – Update List.

8) ECC – Locally Determined Programme – nil responses so far. Response required by ECC by 13th March 2009:

Members went through the Hawkwell Parish Locally Determined Programme and discussed the schemes in detail. The priority list was agreed as follows:-

Priority 1

New and Footway Improvements

Hall Road between the Lawns and the Cemetery

Traffic Regulations and Speed limit requests

Ashingdon Road service Road opposite Holt Farm School – waiting restrictions.

Priority 2

Traffic Regulations and Speed limit requests

Harewood Avenue j/w Rectory Road and Lacelles Gardens. Junction Protection.

The Clerk to respond by the closing date.

9) Xmas Lighting Committee – Verbal report:

When the Clerk began to give a resume of the meeting Cllr Patient congratulated the Clerk on the notes he had emailed to him for approval prior to circulation. Cllr Patient said they were excellent and gave an accurate account of the meeting. Therefore Cllr Patient was asked to

read out the Clerk's notes, which he did. Members wished to debate the issue of the Christmas Tree. The Chairman gave an account of the background of the decisions taken about the Christmas Tree. Cllr Weir proposed that HPC provide a Christmas Tree for Christmas 2009. Cllr Patient read out from the notes that the Xmas Lighting Committee had agreed to have another debate about that. Cllr Leach said it was an issue Members felt passionate about and was more than glad to take the Clerk's advice and ensure that HPC take this to the next Full Council and consult with the Clerk to get costings and permission to see if HPC could proceed or not and have an informed debate about it. Cllr Weir withdrew his proposal on that basis. The Chairman reiterated the principle of upgrading the lights across the Parish. The Clerk said now that Cllr Patient had approved the notes he would circulate them on to the Xmas Lighting Committee. He said the second point was to get Clint Nicholls to go around the Parish and give EEC view to get things approved.

The Chairman commented that if Cllr Mrs Bateman or anyone else wished to go onto the Committees they could do so at the AGM.

Cllr Patient said without Cllr Mrs Glynn's efforts last year HPC would not have had any lights and he would like to thank and congratulate her.

The Chairman summarised a lot of money needed to be spent to upgrade the lights and informed that the cost of the lights that Hockley Parish Council put on each year was £30K and Rochford Parish Council between £15-20K.

10) Summary of actions/decisions:

- **Youth Shelter Vandalism:** Members agreed in principle for the repairs to be carried out to make the shelter safe. The Clerk to take photos along to the NAP's meeting.
- **Clerk to identify seats in need of repair and seek new locations for seats:** New seat to be sited adjacent to bus stop on B1013 opposite White Hart. The Clerk to consult up to 10 residents on the same side of the road.
- **Parish Identity Working Group – new office sign:** A provisional date of 25th March 2009 was agreed for the Working Group to meet. The Clerk to write to Members of the working Group to invite and confirm.
- **Parish Seats:** Members agreed to refer the proposal to put a seat at the southern end of the pond and 2 in the open space next to the church, to the Parks Committee. To consider a seat at Ironwell Lane on the Clements Hall side of the road and at Spencers. The Clerk to put it to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee.
- **To appoint Members of a Working Group and agree a date for first meeting for Village Fayre:** Cllrs Mrs J Barney, Mrs T Bateman, Mrs A Heath, V Leach, R Patient and Mrs Weir volunteered to join Working Group and agreed to meet on 12th March 2009 at 2.30pm in the Annex to Parish Office.
- **ECC – Locally Determined Programme – nil responses so far. Response required by ECC by 13th March 2009:** Members asked the Clerk to take note of the priority list and respond by the closing date.
- **Xmas Lighting Committee – Verbal report:** The Clerk to get costings and permission to see if HPC could proceed or not and have an informed debate about the Christmas Tree at next Full Council. The Clerk to circulate the minutes of the Xmas Lighting Committee to its Members

Chairman