

**Minutes of a meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 12th October 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 T Bateman, Mrs C Cunningham, Mrs J Fern, Mrs A Heath, K Holmes, V Leach, R Mitchell, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

Also Present: Cllrs Mrs E Chippette and Mrs M Dorrell.

1) Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr R Patient (unwell), 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 14th September 2009 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:

Members approved the Minutes of 14th September 2009 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes.

4) Financial Report:

The Clerk went through the Financial Report. He advised that Cost Centre 202 Street Furniture - account for criminal damage was overspent but the budget was a best guess as it could never be accurately predicted. Overall the figures were on target and everything was going well. There were no questions and Members accepted the Financial Report.

5) Actions List Update:

The Clerk went through the action point update list.

- **Village Plan Project:** Cllr Mrs Weir updated that she had reported to Full Council that 52 named people attended the public meeting, 10 people had put their names forward to form the steering committee, including a secretary. Cllr Leach added there was a good response from West Hawkwell but it was felt that a meeting should be held in the East before the committee structured with officers. He went on to say that it was a request and not a proposal that HPC facilitate the meeting in the East with the same remit as that held in the West. Cllr Mrs Heath suggested an article be placed in the next Newsletter advertising the meeting in the East. Cllr Holmes asked if there was a separate budget fund put aside for this. The Clerk advised that the last Parish Plan Group had been given a grant of £300 from last years budget but this had been repaid when the group folded. There was a need to identify which budget would be used to cover the Parish Plan expenditure. The Chairman referred to Cost Centre 209 - Projects showing a budget of £1K and thought funds would be allocated from that account. Cllr Mrs Cunningham felt a better response would be achieved if another meeting was held in the East and due to the poor bus service in the evenings felt the Ashingdon Hall would be a favourable venue. Cllr Mrs Weir suggested the Baptist Hall and Cllr Leach suggested the Elim Church, which had been used before by HPC, may be a more suitable venue as the Memorial Hall was in the Parish of Ashingdon. Cllr Weir raised the issue of costs Cllr Mrs Weir had incurred in running the meeting and Cllr Leach clarified it had been previously agreed that Cllr Mrs Weir's inkjet and ream of paper would be replaced and any further expenses should be handed into the Clerk for reimbursement. Cllr Weir stated there was no

guarantee the Village Plan Committee would get a grant and queried where they would get their finances from to run the Committee. The Clerk advised the RCCE were unable to fund these groups but other sources of funding were available and RCCE would advise. **Cllr Mrs Glynn proposed from the Chair that between Cllr Mrs Weir, Mrs Heath and Cllr Leach a date be organised for a public meeting in the East at Ashingdon Hall, Baptist Church or the Elim Church and £300 would be granted to fund the project from Cost Centre 209 - Projects.** Members agreed and the motion was carried.

- **Provide CCTV point for Hawkwell Shops:** Members agreed for item to be closed.
- **Clerk to identify seats in need of repair and seek new locations for seats:** Ongoing.
- **Cleaning of bus shelters:** Cllr Leach updated that both items were being dealt with - it was reported to the Contractor regarding plant growth in the bus shelter at the Victory Pub and Billericay glass to repair Perspex at White Hart shops on 14th October.
- **Gain permission to decorate 2/3 trees with Xmas lights/Request permission to erect Seasonal Decoration over the highway:** Cllr Mrs Cunningham had received requests from local children that they would like to see coloured lights on the trees. Members agreed with Cllr Mrs Cunningham that they would like to see coloured lighting. The Clerk informed the lights had already been purchased and were mostly white but there were some coloured. He thought it may be possible to swap the lights for coloured ones and he would look into it.
- **Village Fayre:** Awaiting next steps by working group.
- **Hourly bus service:** Cllr James felt it should be noted which bus service this related to and requested that No. 8 evening bus service be added to the description on the report. The Clerk noted. The Chairman advised the bus service issues would be raised at the CAC meeting Thursday 15th September 2009 at 7.30pm at the Hawkwell Village Hall and all were invited to put their questions to the CAC.
- **Financial Planning 2010/11:** Members considered budget 2010/11 and agreed to research possibility of installing bus shelter at Lascelles, review budget for Youth Project, include money for street art and review lighting in bus shelters.

6) **Budget Proposals 2010/11:**

The Chairman asked Members for their ideas and advised that the General Purpose draft budget based on the Clerks assumptions for next year would be brought to the next meeting when there would be a proper debate for the Committee to accept or reject the findings.

- Cllr Mrs Cunningham passed on requests from Parishioners for the lighting to be improved in Hawkwell Village Hall. Cllr Leach advised it would be referred to the Hall Management Committee.
- Cllr Mrs Dorrell queried whether a dog waste bin could be put in on land at Hainault Avenue, the Chairman responded that it was private land and nothing to do with HPC and any dog bins outside of the parishes parks were for the District Council to consider.
- Cllr Mitchell queried lights being out in the alleyway at Hawkwell Chase and advised he had previously passed the information to office – the Clerk to check.
- Cllr Mrs Bateman felt the zebra crossing by the Co-operative shops was poorly lit. Members agreed the lights were poor and the Chairman informed the issue should be referred to Highways and asked the Clerk to email them.

7) **Communications from residents re. Sunny Road Parking:**

Cllrs Mrs Weir and Mrs Heath advised that the Police were launching a campaign to visit schools in the area to speak to people parking outside schools and on verges. Members engaged in a lengthy discussion on the subject, Cllr Leach told of Westrings School leading the way with the walking bus initiative. Generally, it was felt it had become a trend to drive children to school. Cllr James queried what the residents were specifically requesting and the

Clerk clarified they were calling for double yellow lines in the turnaround. Members felt there was a need to support these people. The Chairman asked Cllr James to go along and monitor the situation for 2/3 days and Cllr James agreed he would and volunteered to inform the residents of the Central Area Meeting taking place on Thursday, where they would be welcome to attend and raise their issues. The Clerk made a suggestion that the remedial work for Sunny Road be dealt with under Agenda item 8. regarding Highways.

8) Email from Parish Information Co-ordination Officer re. Highways Communities Initiative Fund:

- Cllr Leach felt there was a lack of footpath between Hall Road and the cemetery.
- The existing footpath south of Ashcombe had not been repaired for many years.
- Cllr Mrs Weir questioned if Poplars Avenue already had money allocated to it?
- Cllr Mrs Heath felt the pavements in Sweyne Avenue were in a terrible situation, they were well used by people accessing the Sports Centre.

The Chairman noted and asked the Clerk to put these through as proposals to Angela Balcombe, Parish Information & Co-ordination Officer.

Cllr James asked if this included street lighting and advised the lighting in Hall Road was appalling. The Clerk confirmed that would be the responsibility of Rochford Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Glynn informed that she had been told that after 31st March 2010 the lights in Hall Road would be turned off from the Cock in through to Rectory Road as RPC could not afford to run them at a cost of £40K pa and this would be publicised at the end of December. The Clerk suggested that RPC and HPC should be lobbying to keep the lights in Hall Road on as part of the CIF Highways plan and the Chairman asked Members if they would like the Clerk to liaise with the Clerk of RPC to put together a proposal. Members unanimously agreed.

9) Request for a memorial plaque on the seat at top of Mount Bovers Lane:

Members discussed the issue at length, they felt if one was allowed to place a plaque on a seat they would be setting a precedent. It was suggested to plant a tree by the seat but the Clerk clarified it was farmers land. Cllr Mrs Weir proposed the public could buy the bench in order to place a plaque on it. The Clerk pointed out that where a seat had a plaque on it, it was because the family had bought the seat. The Chairman asked the Clerk to reply to the request informing them that it was not policy to place plaques on seats that were not donated by family.

10) Summary of actions/decisions:

- Cllrs Mrs Weir, Mrs Heath and Cllr Leach to set a date for a public meeting for the Village Plan Project in the East at Ashingdon Hall, Baptist Church or Elim Church and £300 would be granted to fund the project from Cost Centre 209 - Projects.
- Notice of the meeting to be given in the next newsletter.
- Coloured Xmas lights requested to decorate trees, the Clerk to see if currently have enough coloured lights or to investigate possibility of swapping the white lights for coloured lights.
- Description on action list regarding hourly bus service to be amended to include no. 8 evening bus service.
- Request from Parishioners for the lighting to be improved in Hawkwell Village Hall to be referred to the Hall Management Committee.
- The Clerk to check progress regarding report of lights being out in the alleyway at Hawkwell Chase.
- The Clerk to email Highways regarding poor lighting at zebra crossing by Co-operative shops.

- Cllr James to monitor problem with Sunny Road parking for 2/3 days around school time and to inform the resident of the Central Area Committee Meeting taking place on Thursday 15th October 2009 at 7.30pm.
- The Clerk to put forward proposals to Angela Balcombe, Parish Information & Co-ordination Officer
 - existing footpath south of Ashcombe in need of repair
 - Poplars Avenue
 - pavements in Sweyne Avenue well used
 - lack of footpath between Hall Road and the cemetery.
- The Clerk to liaise with the Clerk of Rochford Parish Council to put together a proposal to lobby to keep the lights on in Hall Road.
- Members did not approve the request for a memorial plaque on the seat at the top of Mount Bovers Lane as this would set a precedent. The Clerk to respond to the plaque request.

Chairman