

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on  
Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

**Councillors Present:** Chairman Cllr Mrs H Glynn, Vice Chairman Cllr R Patient, Cllrs Mrs C Cunningham, Mrs A Heath, V Leach, R Mitchell, D Weir, Mrs M Weir and Mrs P Young.

**67. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:**

Cllr J Dickson (ex-officio) (another meeting). Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.

**68. Declarations of interest:**

There were none.

**69. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:**

Members approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting. The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman for overseeing the meeting and asked Cllr Patient to sign the minutes which he agreed to do at the end of the meeting.

**70. Actions List Update:**

The Clerk went through the action points and reported on progress:-

- **New Parish Council Noticeboard at Hawkwell Village Hall:** Awaiting response, ongoing as per report.
- **Members to report to GP Committee feedback/comments re bus shelter survey:** The Clerk informed that Cory had difficulty in getting the price per unit below a certain figure; he'd asked them to put in for a price they considered economic and he would then test the market against the information.
- **New Bus shelters:** Awaiting answer from ECC, ongoing.
- **Review light in alleyway at Hawkwell Chase:** Review in next financial year.
- **Corporate Identity:** Artwork promised in next couple of days for examination and signs expected within 2 weeks.
- **Clerk to enquire re use of payback team in adverse weather:** The Clerk reported that the team were due to work in the Parish on Sunday but he was unable to make contact with them; they attempted get in touch with him Sunday morning but they did not leave a contact number for him to reach them.
- **Agreed to contribute £150 to street art project:** Agenda item 10. See item 76.
- **Reference of Belchamps event to YWG:** Item no longer active, agreed to be removed from report.
- **Hawkwell Common Christmas Tree:** The Clerk gave an update as per his report and asked Members to consider what action they would like to take. Members discussed this in detail, taking into account the advice of the professionals, vandalism, similar projects in other areas and noting that RDC had planted trees on the common already. The Clerk was asked about price of planting, he advised the hole would need to be dug by specialised people and it would depend on the size of the tree but he thought it was likely to cost around £5K, similar to the concrete base quote. After much debate Members agreed that the option of a concrete base was

not feasible and this should be ruled out. **It was agreed if Council ensured the correct protection and nurturing was put into place that a chance be taken to plant a tree on the green.** The Clerk was asked to report back with a price for a suitably sized tree together with quote for ground works for the next meeting; in the hope that the tree could be in situ before the end of April to enable it to settle by the Summer. The Clerk was asked if permission needed to be sought from RDC and he advised that Geoff Dawson had informed him that RDC were not opposed to the planting of the tree on the common. Members agreed to go ahead.

- **Royal British Legion – Big Poppy Weekend** – The Chairman asked Cllr Leach to advise the date and he replied it would be the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011. (Agenda item 6.) See minute 71.
- **Fashion Show** – The Clerk to liaise with Rebekah Abrams re. next steps.

**71. Financial Report:**

The Clerk went through the report; he informed that Council had been granted funds for bus shelters but that didn't show on the income column and he advised that budgets were very tough. The Chairman asked if the proposed expenditure for the Christmas tree was to come out of the Xmas Lights budget and the Clerk confirmed it would, being attributed to cost centre 203, account code 4921. There were no further questions and Members accepted the Financial Report.

**72. Royal British Legion – Big Poppy Weekend (10/12 June 2011):**

Cllr Leach informed the details of his suggestion to produce an event similar to the Christmas celebrations. He suggested the event could be advertised as a free concert and it would be relatively simple by way of erecting a marquee, inviting Les Titford and the Westerings School Choir; should they be unavailable Council could approach the Greensward Academy. The Chairman asked Members if they were aware of the British Legion holding any other events that weekend and the Clerk advised he was awaiting a response from the British Legion to confirm. The Chairman urged that time was getting close and asked that representations be made through the Clerk and Cllr Leach to approach the school and Members were content.

**73. Confirmation of CIF 2010/11:**

The Clerk referred to the letter from ECC informing Council that the application for a grant of £5,993 was successful and he advised the monies were for the parish notice boards. The Clerk added that sadly this may be the last round of the community initiatives fund. Members noted the information.

**74. Email from RDC re. 'Rochford District Matters' – Spring 2011:**

The Chairman invited comments from the floor. Members discussed the email from RDC, whether RDC held surgeries, when and where, that it was trialled in Rochford Parish a long time ago but was not well used. The Clerk informed that Ashingdon Parish Council were the only Parish that he knew of that held surgeries and this was most likely because they did not have a Parish Office. **Cllr Mrs Glynn moved from the Chair that the Clerk respond with thanks for the offer and inform them of the Parish Office opening hours; this was carried.**

**75. Email from resident re. Grit box for junction of Belchamps Way/The Westerings:**

Members discussed the location and the need. The Clerk advised that the junction of Sunny Road and Westerings had already been identified as a high risk area to be treated in adverse weather within the Parish resources and it would be as well to include the area of

Belchamps Way; should a salt bin be placed there, Council would be required to go to ECC to ask them to fill it and it would be a duplication of effort. The Clerk clarified that Council would be required to purchase the box and ECC would fill it and this led onto further discussion. **Cllr Mrs Heath suggested that the Clerk reply to the email informing that Council had resources to spread salt in high risk areas in adverse weather conditions and that area had been identified within those parameters and Members agreed this.** The Clerk informed, with regard to the last paragraph of the email relating to Parish Boundary walks, that he had passed on the Parish Plan Group's email information and the Chairman advised that another woodland walk was coming up.

**76. Email from Roxie Curry (RDC) re. Spray Can Art Project – Key Dates:**

Cllr Patient referred to the email and stated that Roxie Curry had made excellent progress with the events proposed to take place the second week of the Easter holidays and it was looking like a first class job. The Chairman urged Members to go along to the meetings as per the dates given in the email and this was noted.

**77. Summary of actions/decisions:**

- 'Reference of Belchamps event to YWG' to be removed from action list.
- The Clerk to obtain price for suitably sized Christmas tree for planting together with quote for ground works and report back to next GP meeting.
- Representations to be made through the Clerk and Cllr Leach for Royal British Legion – Big Poppy weekend concert event.
- The Clerk to respond to RDC email re Parish Council Surgeries advising Parish Office opening hours and with thanks for the offer.
- Agreed the area of Belchamps Way/The Westerings be included in the identified high risk areas to be treated in adverse weather. The Clerk to reply to email.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman