

**Minutes of a meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 16th February 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, J Dickson, Mrs J Fern, Mrs A Heath, K Holmes, V Leach, R Mitchell and R Patient.

Also Present: Cllr Mrs M Dorrell.

1) Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllrs D Weir and Mrs M Weir (ill). 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 10th November 2008 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting: Members approved the Minutes of 10th November 2008 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:** The Clerk had received a paper from RCCE stating that they could give support to the project and he would pass that onto to Cllr Mrs Weir. The Chairman asked Members if they wished to continue with this project as it had been ongoing since November 2006. Cllr Leach felt strongly that it should be given one more try and Members were in agreement.
- **CCTV Camera for Hawkwell Shops:** Ongoing.
- **Seats:** Members agreed for the Clerk to purchase seats from the Garden Centre, the same as previously purchased.
- **Graffiti initiative in Magnolia:** Artists to be invited to attend Full Council March/April 09 with design concepts.
- **Youth Project:** Item to be removed from Actions list.
- **Christmas Lighting review:** Item to be removed from Actions list.
- **Parish Identity Group:** Ongoing.
- **Web Site:** Item to be removed from Actions list.
- **Litter Bin for Churchyard:** Bin being galvanised – to be delivered to Church. Item to be removed from Action list.
- **Petition for new Zebra Crossing:** Item to be removed from Action list.
- **Cleaning of bus shelters:** The Clerk had not received any reports but Cllr Mrs Cunningham gave an update that the shelter near the Victory Pub was dirty and the shelter at the White Hart shops was clean.
- **Christmas Tree/Christmas Tree Lights:** Item to be removed from Action list – see agenda item 6.

5) Financial Report:

Members accepted and agreed the Financial report.

6) Christmas Celebrations Review:

- a) **Christmas Lights:** A lengthy discussion ensued. Members were disappointed with the quality of lighting provided in comparison to other Parish Councils; the budget was discussed with a view to giving consideration to re-setting the budget to reflect the quality of lights required. Members felt the Working Party should be put together before the next GP Meeting as the time constraints were tight in making decisions on the lights for December 2009. The Chairman clarified the working party was made up of Cllrs Mrs Heath, V Leach, R Patient, D Weir and Mrs M Weir. A further discussion took place regarding the planting of a Christmas tree. The Chairman had not received a specific answer from RDC and the Clerk advised he was informed by RDC that every small tree planted on the common had been vandalised. Cllr Mrs Glynn proposed from the Chair to continue with the opening ceremony by decorating with lighting 2 to 3 trees along the front of the common in place of planting or purchasing a Christmas tree. Cllr Holmes seconded. Members felt this was an excellent proposal, they agreed and the motion was carried. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to RDC to gain permission to decorate the trees and called for the Christmas Lighting Committee to meet prior to the next GP meeting on 9th March 2009.
- b) **Christmas Parcels:** Cllr Patient commented that the distribution was run efficiently with an excellent atmosphere and the parcels looked really good. The Chairman asked Members what they wished to do with the excess groceries. It was ascertained that the groceries were not perishable and a discussion took place with a view to dividing the parcels amongst 2 day centres or whether to retain them for tombola prizes if HPC were to hold a Fete. Members felt as it was unclear as to whether a Fete was to take place in 2009 and as it was not on the Agenda and time was pressing, the subject should be discussed at another meeting. Cllr Holmes proposed that the left over parcels be equally divided and distributed to 2 day centres. The Chairman seconded and asked Members to vote, 5 voted for and 2 against and the motion was carried. The Chairman asked the Clerk to organise the distribution.

7) **ECC – Localism 2009/10:**

The Chairman asked Members to peruse the document and consider any suggestions they may have to be brought to the next GP meeting on 9th March when a decision would be made to enable the Clerk to respond by 13th March 2009. Members agreed.

8) **ECC – Request to erect Temporary Overhead Banner/Seasonal Decoration over the Highway:**

The Clerk confirmed that he would need to pursue this as it coincided with minute item 6 a) to seek permission from RDC to erect lighting on trees on Hawkwell common.

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

- **Village Plan Project:** Members agreed to continue with the project and the Clerk to pass RCCE paper to Cllr Mrs Weir
- **Seats:** The Clerk to purchase seats from the supplier.
- **Christmas Lights:** To seek permission to decorate 2/3 trees with lighting along the front of Hawkwell common in place of planting/purchasing a Christmas tree.
- **Christmas Lighting Committee:** To meet prior to the next GP meeting - 9th March 2009.
- **Christmas Parcels:** The Clerk to organise for the excess groceries to be equally divided and distributed to 2 day centres.
- **ECC – Localism 2009/10:** Members to peruse document and feed back suggestions at the next GP meeting on 9th March 2009.
- **ECC – Request to erect Temporary Overhead Banner/Seasonal Decoration over the Highway:** The Clerk to pursue regarding minute item 6 a).

Chairman