

**Minutes of the meeting of
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 16th May 2011 in the Committee Room,
Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford**

Councillors Present: Mrs E Chippette, J Dickson, Mrs A Heath, V Leach, R Patient, D Weir, Mrs M Weir and Mrs P Young.

1. To elect a Chairman:

Cllr Mrs Weir proposed Cllr Patient be elected Chairman and the proposal was seconded by Cllrs Mrs Heath. There being no further nominations Members voted and the motion was carried unanimously.

2. To elect a Vice Chairman:

Cllr Mrs Young asked to be appointed as a Member of the GP Committee and the Clerk confirmed Standing Orders now allowed Councillors to be appointed to Committees at any point in the year. Members approved and welcomed Cllr Mrs Young's appointment. **Cllr Mrs Heath nominated Cllr Mrs Young as Vice Chairman. The Chairman seconded and Cllr Mrs Young confirmed she was content to stand.** There being no further nominations Members voted and the motion was carried unanimously.

3. To receive apologies for non attendance at meeting:-

Cllr Mrs Cunningham (unwell) and Cllr R Mitchell (holiday). The apologies were accepted.

4. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2011 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:

Members approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th April 2011 and to the destruction of the manuscript notes.

6. Action List Update:

The Clerk went through the progress report.

- **New Parish Council Noticeboard at Hawkwell Village Hall:** The Clerk referred to the emails included with the papers and reported his frustration in the difficulties he was having in the communication process with ECC since their restructuring. Cllr Leach suggested getting in touch with Tracey Chapman, who he believed to be the new portfolio holder, and raise the issue with her in the hope she could help resolve the communication problems. The Clerk made a note.
- **Members to report to GP Committee feedback/comments re bus shelter survey:** The Clerk informed there were problems with Cory over the litter bins and he was still awaiting a quote from them for bus shelter cleaning. Cllr Mrs Heath queried how much Les Node charged and the Clerk advised the rate was different as he was an employee; the tender for Cory had been worked collectively with other parishes and the price reflected the larger contract. Cllr

Mrs Heath suggested the use of the payback team but the Clerk informed this wouldn't be possible due to transport issues and inconsistency of attendance.

- **New Bus shelters:** Awaiting answer from ECC, ongoing.
- **Review light in alleyway at Hawkwell Chase:** The Clerk judged that the £1.5K previously agreed and budgeted would be sufficient to complete the project.
- **Corporate Identity:** The Clerk advised as per the report that other options were being explored as no staff in the Parish were qualified to work at height and therefore erect the barrier. A lengthy debate ensued as to the implications and liabilities and some Members expressed strong opinions. Members looked at options to resolve the issue, one of which to commission the supplier of the barrier with the task of erecting the sign however the Clerk informed that he was ill with a long term injury. Members agreed to leave the situation for the Clerk to handle even if that meant calling in another contractor at a reasonable price.
- **Agreed to contribute £150 to street art project:** The Clerk read out an email from Roxy Curry that had arrived that day suggesting running the project in the summer holidays when they would have more lead time for appointment of artists and Members were content for this to happen.
- **Hawkwell Common Christmas Tree:** Working group to meet to consider.
- **Royal British Legion – Big Poppy Weekend** – Agreed to close item.
- **Fashion Show** – The Clerk advised that Council would need to pay a deposit when booking the HVH for the show but it would be recoverable and Members noted.
- **Halo lights on Pedestrian crossing in Main Road** – Email sent to ECC, ongoing.
- **Essex Legacy** – See Agenda item 9.

7. Financial Report:

The Clerk informed it was the first month of the financial year, everything was completely routine and there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. There were no questions and Members accepted the Financial Report.

8. Consider Operational Plan:

The Chairman referred Members to the Operational Plan and he asked for any comments/questions from the floor; there were none and **Members accepted the Operational Plan as presented.**

9. Essex Legacy – referred from April Full Council:

The Clerk referred Members to the document from RCCE and advised it was offering a source of funding and Members could generate ideas for a grant. Cllr Mrs Weir pointed out the parish should not qualify having in excess of 10K inhabitants. Members discussed the content, it was ascertained the funding would be for a specific event, there was some confusion whether the dates were this year or next year and Members hoped for the Youth Working Group to look at something for the Jubilee year. The Clerk read out extracts from the document and confirmed that it applied to 2 open weekends 1 on the 24th July 2011 and 1 on 22nd June 2012, thus celebrating a year to go until the London 2012 Open Weekend in Essex and then again in the year 2012. Some ideas were discussed; Cllr Mrs Heath suggested an event involving graffiti boards and Cllr Dickson suggested inviting other Parish Councils to do

something collectively which was thought to be a good idea. The Chairman called for a meeting of the working group and a date was set for 24th May.

10. Summary of Decisions Taken:

- Cllr Patient was elected Chairman.
- Cllr Mrs Young was elected Vice Chairman.
- The Clerk to contact Tracey Chapman re. ECC communication issues.
- Agreed for the Clerk to organise what action to be taken in hanging the sign at the entrance to Magnolia.
- Agreed for street art project to take place in the summer holidays.
- RBL – poppy weekend to be removed from action list.
- Operational Plan approved.
- Essex Legacy - Working group to meet 24th May.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman