

**Minutes of a meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 17th January 2011
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

A presentation was given on the proposal for a street art project in Magnolia Park at Easter 2011 by Roxie Curry, Arts Development Officer – Rochford District Council at the Finance Committee meeting which took place prior to the meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

All details referring to the presentation are noted in the following Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the rise of the Finance Committee.

Cllr Dickson as the Chairman of the Finance Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced he would be suspending Standing Orders immediately in order for the presentation to take place. He invited members to put their questions through Cllr Mrs Glynn as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee at the end of the presentation.

Cllr Mrs Glynn introduced Roxie Curry, Arts Development Officer at RDC and advised there were monies left within RDC's budget with regard to the youth in Rochford District; it was intended to have a meeting with Ms Curry and the Clerk before Christmas but that was postponed due to the snow. Cllr Mrs Glynn advised a meeting of the Youth Working Group took place last week Chaired by Cllr Patient and she invited Cllr Patient to speak.

Cllr Patient referred Members to the report on the proposal and outline for a street art project in Magnolia attached to the General Purpose Papers and he invited Ms Curry to give her presentation.

Roxie Curry gave a detailed presentation as outlined in her report and requested that Hawkwell Parish Council commit up to £150 towards the project; the cost of the project would be around £1250 and the remainder of funds would come from the arts development budget.

Questions:

- Will we see the plans before work is carried out?
- The previous murals that were painted approximately 3 years ago still look good; could you tie them together, could you use panels, make it an event?
- How many young people will it involve?

Cllr Mrs Glynn as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee thanked Roxie Curry for her presentation and advised Members that Ms Curry had to leave for another meeting and all discussion relating to the proposal would take place in the General Purposes Meeting after the rise of the Finance Committee.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs H Glynn, Vice Chairman Cllr R Patient, Cllrs Mrs E Chippette, J Dickson, Mrs A Heath, V Leach (in part), R Mitchell, D Weir, Mrs M Weir and Mrs P Young.

46. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllrs Mrs J Barney (holiday) and Mrs C Cunningham (unwell). Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.

47. Declarations of interest:

There were none.

48. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2010 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:

Members approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2010 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting.

49. Actions List Update:

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

- **Gain permission to decorate 2/3 trees with Xmas lights/Request permission to erect Seasonal Decoration over the highway:** Members agreed item to be removed from list.
- **New Parish Council Noticeboard at Hawkwell Village Hall:** Ongoing.
- **Youth Working Group to visit GW youth facility:** Members agreed item to be removed from list.
- **Members to report to GP Committee feedback/comments re bus shelter survey:** The Clerk updated that he was awaiting an estimate for repairs at Golden Cross.
- **New Bus shelters:** Cllr Mrs Heath asked for consideration for a bus shelter at the Sweyne Avenue bus stop on the left side - West to East and Cllr Mrs Weir suggested a new bus shelter outside of Holt Farm School would look much better. The Clerk warned if there wasn't a grant available £2K in the budget would not be enough to buy a full bus shelter.
- **Review light in alleyway at Hawkwell Chase:** The Clerk asked if Members wished for the item to remain on the list and Cllr Mitchell declared that he would like it to remain.
- **Wyvern Community Transport:** Members agreed for item to be removed from list.
- **Corporate Identity:** Cllr Leach apologised that he had been too busy to get into the office however the Clerk needed to formally approve the orders and Members could expect action within the next week.
- **Clerk to enquire re use of payback team in adverse weather:** The Clerk to report back when response received.
- **Children in Need event:** Members agreed for item to be removed from list.

50. Financial Report:

The Clerk went through the document in detail and he reported an over spend on the GP account of £1,082, mainly due to purchase of salt and spreading equipment as a consequence of the adverse weather. He advised the budgets were very tight overall therefore care was needed. The Chairman asked if Council had received a free amount of salt that each Parish was allocated and the Clerk confirmed Council had received 3 lots from the County. There were no further questions and Members accepted the Financial Report. Cllr Leach left the meeting as he had another appointment.

51. Proposed Street Art Project in Magnolia Park (presentation by Arts Development Officer RDC):

The Chairman invited Cllr Patient to speak and he informed that Roxie Curry – RDC Arts Development Officer had presented her proposal at a meeting of the Youth Working Group last week. Cllr Patient referred Members to the report on the proposal and outline for a street art project in Magnolia and reiterated that everything in that report was

repeated at the presentation that took place this evening. Hawkwell Parish Council had been asked to commit up to £150 towards the project; the cost of the project would be around £1250 and the remainder of funds would come from the arts development budget. The Chairman advised that the money would come out of this financial year's budget. **Cllr Patient moved that Members adopt the recommendation and Cllr Weir seconded. The Chairman asked for a show of hands and the motion was carried.**

52. Belchamps Scout Centre – 75th Anniversary Celebrations:

Members discussed that there were no funds available but it might be possible to support a programme by way of providing equipment loaned from the store. The Clerk suggested referral to the Youth Working Group and **Cllr Mrs Heath proposed that the request be passed to the Youth Working Group for their discussion, Cllr Mrs Weir seconded.** The Chairman proposed that the Working Group's findings be brought back to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and Members were content. Cllr Mitchell expressed concern over safety and traffic management over recent events held at the Belchamps Scout Centre and he wished this to be noted.

53. Christmas Parcels – Update by Chairman:

The Chairman informed she had received numerous phone calls and positive feedback from parishioners and on behalf of the residents she thanked Members for their work. Cllr Mrs Weir related that the process went very well this year and Cllrs Mrs Barney, Mrs Dorrell and Cllr Patient had delivered most of the parcels themselves. Cllr Patient thought the parcels and organisation was the best so far especially considering the inclement weather and he wished to thank the Clerk and Diane Scrivener who had overseen the project whilst the Clerk was unwell and did a first class job. The Clerk added that Cllrs Weir and Mrs Weir delivered over 90 parcels and he commended them. Cllr Patient called for more Members to join the Christmas Parcel Committee and this was noted.

54. Christmas Lights – Update by Chairman:

The Chairman invited Cllr Patient to give a verbal report of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held the previous week. Cllr Patient updated that the Committee concluded that the previous idea of planting a 12-15 metre Christmas tree was impractical due to the huge base of concrete required because of health & safety and the need to ensure stability in high wind. Instead, the Committee agreed to plant a 15+ft tree on its own, providing it was watered correctly and trimmed from time to time, let it grow and become established and the Committee wished to recommend this action to the GP Committee for consideration. Cllr Patient reported that the Committee felt the lights on the Christmas tree were improved this year, the lights obtained from Southend Borough Council were used and they were better. It was decided it would be responsible to recommend to the GP Committee that no lights be purchased for next year and there would be no increase in spending.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Patient for his report and asked Members to consider the recommendations.

The Clerk advised a small trench would have to be made from the pillar on the side of the road and agreement from RDC would need to be sought. There would be a cost for at least 12 months for watering but it would be cheaper to use the tractor to water the tree rather than putting in a cut tree that would require a huge foundation and thus a big hole in the ground.

Cllr Mrs Heath reported she had also received good feedback regarding the lights, she was pleased the committee were considering planting a Christmas tree and suggested that Council approach a garden centre to seek a tree donation in exchange for a plaque being displayed. **Cllr Mrs Glynn proposed from the Chair that Council investigate sourcing**

a Christmas tree before the summer. She suggested Council could ask the British Legion to water it and give them a donation toward the cost of the water. The Chairman asked the Clerk if there was any money in the budget for this year and he replied he hadn't yet got the bill in for Christmas Lights, therefore there might be a slight under spend, however extreme caution on spending was required. The Chairman summarised that the financial side of planting a tree and a tree donation would be investigated in the next month. Members were content.

55. Summary of actions/decisions:

- Items to be removed from Action Update List:-
 - Gain permission to decorate 2/3 trees with Xmas lights/request permission to erect seasonal decoration over the highway,
 - Youth Working Group to visit GW youth facility,
 - Wyvern Community Transport and
 - Children in Need event.
- Members approved to commit up to £150 towards the proposed street art project in Magnolia.
- Belchamps Scout Centre – 75th Anniversary to be referred to Youth Working Group for discussion and report back to GP.
- The Clerk to report back on financial impact of planting a Christmas tree and Members to look at sourcing a tree donation from a garden centre.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman