

**Minutes of the Meeting of
HAWKWELL PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 9th January 2017 at 7:47pm
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford**

Councillors Present: Vice Chair Mrs P Young, K Binding, Mrs E Gadsdon, S May, R Patient, Mrs M Weir.

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

Chairman V Leach (unwell), R Gardner (unwell), Mrs L Shaw (holiday), M Strubel (private appointment), Cllr D Weir (unwell).

District Councillors Mrs C Mason & J Mason had also given apologies.

Members **accepted** the apologies tendered.

102. Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Pecuniary Interest; or

c) Non-Pecuniary Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 9th January 2017:

None were declared.

103. Public Forum & Information Report by District Cllr Mrs J Gooding:

There were no members of the public present.

District Cllr Mrs J Gooding asked Members if they would like to invite the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) representative for the area, Mr John Metcalf, to a Parish Council meeting to discuss NHW issues. Members agreed it would be beneficial to discuss these issues and suggested he be invited to the March Full Council meeting.

Cllr Mrs J Gooding also mentioned that while she had undertaken Speed Awareness watches in the area, a resident had asked about the installation of an additional crossing along Rectory Road. Members spent some time discussing this issue and decided not to pursue the matter, given failed past attempts to get a crossing installed. Members noted the difficulties with obtaining the correct data required by South East Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP). They also pointed out that support from Essex County Councillor Mr Cutmore would be vital in this regard.

Cllr Mrs J Gooding had also been in discussions with Rochford District Council (RDC) about using the Clements Hall Pavilion for youth activities. She informed Members the Police & Crime Commissioner had made it known there was funding available for diversionary activities and she was exploring whether funding from that source could be secured for activities in the Pavilion. Members informed Cllr Mrs J Gooding that historically use of the Pavilion for youth activities had been declined due to its proximity to residential properties.

Cllr Mrs J Gooding also praised Members for the Christmas parcel initiative and noted that residents had been very grateful for the gifts when she had delivered

some within the area. Vice Chair Mrs P Young noted that thanks be passed to Cllr Mrs L Shaw for all her hard work in organising the initiative, and to those who had distributed the parcels.

Cllr Mrs J Gooding closed her update by asking Members to consider nominations for the RDC Citizen of the Year award and suggested Cllr Mrs M Weir be considered. Members agreed to consider the award and make the necessary enquiries about possible nominations.

Vice Chair Mrs P Young thanked Cllr Mrs J Gooding for her update.

104. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Hawkwell Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2016 and to destroy the notes in respect of that meeting:

The minutes of the Meeting held on 7th November 2016 were **approved** as a correct record and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

105. Financial Report (December 2016):

The Clerk reported that the overall budget was 77.6% spent at month 9. She further reported that the Parks budget was overspent at 82%, noting the agreed overspend on the Magnolia pond work.

There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

106. Action List Update (January 2017):

106.1 Members noted a meeting for the Robert Sudbury Trustees had been arranged for that evening (9th January 2017), with Cllrs Mrs M Weir, Mrs P Young and the Clerk.

106.2 The Clerk informed Members that a letter of thanks had been sent to Mrs Corsham following her resignation in November. Members noted the update and agreed to close the item.

Members **accepted** the Action List update and **agreed** to the removal of closed items.

107. Setting the Precept for 2017/18

a) Recommendation from Finance Committee regarding Setting the Precept for 2017/18 - Members approved recommendation from the Finance Committee of a Precept of £181,775.17, which represented a 4.25% increase per household, per annum (£35.75 to £37.27 for Band D equivalents).

b) Adoption of the Precept and approval to notify Rochford District Council (RDC). Members **unanimously agreed** that Council approve an increase of 4.25% on the Council Tax Band D equivalent at £37.27 giving a total Precept, including a LTS Grant of £5,175, of £181,775.17 for the tax year 2017/18. Members also **unanimously agreed** to instruct the Clerk to advise RDC of the approved Precept.

108. Correspondence:

1. Information from the EALC AGM Conference held on the 22nd September 2016 – Members noted the information.

2. **RDC – Launch of ‘Green Gateway Trading Ltd’; December 2016** – Members noted the launch of the new company. Members discussed whether contact details for residents would now change but assumed that RDC would still be the main contact. The Clerk agreed she would obtain clarification.
3. **RDC – Launch of new streamline Housing Service; December 2016** – Cllr R Patient praised senior officers for their recognised work, but felt disappointed in HPC’s decision to have not donated to Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in 2016/17. Members had some concerns about the location of the service, noting residents of Hawkwell would have to travel to Rayleigh, which proved to be difficult for some residents.
4. **RDC – Information on the ‘#TellMeMore’ service; December 2016** – Members noted the new information service and hoped it would be well advertised. The Clerk also informed Members RDC had redesigned their website and, on initial inspection, felt it had been improved.
5. **Essex Rural Partnership – Newsletter; November 2016** – Members noted the Newsletter. Members briefly discussed the article on Fly Tipping and agreed a more suitable solution needed to be found to significantly reduce the high levels of Fly Tipping in the area.

109. Receive Committee/Working Party Reports since last meeting:

Planning Committee: Cllr Mrs Weir moved the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th and 20th December 2016 which were **accepted**.

Finance Committee: Cllr K Binding moved the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th December 2016 which were **accepted**.

Parks Committee: Cllr Mrs P Young moved the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2016 and 5th December 2016 which were **accepted**.

General Purposes Committee: In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Cllr Mrs P Young moved the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2016 and 5th December 2016 which were **accepted**.

110. Representatives Reports:

Hockley & Hawkwell Old Peoples Welfare Committee – Cllr Mrs Weir reported there had been no meetings. The Clerk agreed she would contact the Committee for future meeting dates as it was unclear when the next meeting was. The Clerk also informed Members she had heard there were still delays with the mini bus delivery due to registration document problems, but when resolved there would be an event for those who had contributed, which would be held on a Saturday. Members had also heard that the Committee were trying to challenge the VAT payment due on the bus, but were faced with several issues.

Rochford Old Peoples Welfare Committee – Cllr Mrs Gadsdon and Cllr S May informed Members they had no updates and were unclear of the meeting dates. The Clerk agreed to recirculate the meeting dates to Cllr Mrs E Gadsdon and S May.

Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils (RHALC) – Members noted the next meeting would occur on the 19th January 2017.

Hawkwell Village Hall – Cllr Mrs Young informed Members the next meeting would occur on the 18th January 2017 and noted it would also be the Hawkwell Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Ashington & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall MC – Cllr V Leach was absent from the meeting so no update was provided.

Public Transport Liaison Group – Cllr Mrs Weir reported there had been no meetings.

Robert Sudbury Trust – Members noted the next meeting would take place following Full Council that evening (9th January 2017).

Information Reports:

Community Meetings – District Cllr Mrs J Gooding informed Members Community Meetings would now only occur at the Rochford Parish Rooms and a recent meeting had drawn in many residents due to a spate of crime in the area. The Police had been in attendance, but Cllr Mrs J Gooding mentioned it was important to note that the meetings were not Police-led meetings, despite the views of several residents. Members felt there was a lack of consistency in meetings which resulted in residents feeling frustrated about the inaction from the meetings. Cllr Mrs J Gooding also informed Members there had been confusion over the location of the meeting, with some residents thinking it was just for Rochford residents while the Police told Members it was for the entire Rochford district. It was noted that in relation to crime, it was imperative residents reported all issues, either through the telephone ‘101’ service, online, or in cases of emergency to call 999 to be able to provide report evidence/statistics which would justify police resources within the affected areas.

111. Payment of Accounts:

There were no questions and the payment of accounts paid since the last meeting (November/December 2016 payments) were **approved together with agreement to pay any accounts due** before the next meeting.

112. Summary of Decisions Taken:

- NHW Representative, John Metcalf to be invited to HPC Full Council Meeting on 6th March 2017.
- Members to consider nominations for the RDC Citizens of the Year Award.
- Precept of £181,775.17 approved; Clerk to advise RDC.
- Clerk to seek clarification about contact details regarding RDC’s new trading company, Green Gateway Trading.
- Clerk to contact Hockley & Hawkwell Old Peoples Welfare Committee to obtain 2017 meeting dates.
- Clerk to re-circulate meeting dates for the Rochford Old Peoples Welfare Committee to Cllrs Mrs E Gadsdon and S May.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:36pm

Chairman