

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 5th December 2016 at 7:51pm
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Chairman R Gardner, Cllr Mrs E Gadsdon, Cllr K Binding, Cllr R Patient, Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr M Strubel, Cllr Mrs M Weir and Cllr Mrs P Young.

39. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr V Leach (other appointment), Cllr S May (other appointment), Cllr D Weir (unwell) had given apologies.

Members **accepted** the apologies tendered and wished all Members well.

40. Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Pecuniary Interest; or

c) Non-Pecuniary Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 5th December 2016:

None were declared.

41. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

42. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2016 meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting were **approved** and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

43. Action Update List – December 2016:

43.1 Members were referred to Agenda Item 7 (Minute 45).

43.2 Members noted the Clerk had responded to RDC regarding Working Relationships & Shared Opportunities and agreed to close the item.

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

44. Financial Report – November 2016:

The Clerk informed Members the General Purposes budget was underspent, but that there would be an increase in expenditure over the December/January period due to Christmas parcels and Christmas lighting costs.

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

45. Request for a new seat at the greensward of Ashingdon Road and Doric Avenue. Update following a letter to local residents:

The Clerk reported that 40 letters had been sent to residents who were in close proximity to the proposed seat and that she had received five responses. The consensus was that those who had contacted the Clerk did not approve of the

reinstatement of the bench. Several residents relayed historic Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) problems they had faced from youths when the seat was present. It was noted that one respondent was Cllr R Gardner, who was also against the reinstatement of the bench, but who pointed out that a bus stop close to the location did have several seats in it.

Members were aware that more residents had petitioned for the reinstatement of the bench, but noted that they all resided in Norwich House and were residents who would not be directly affected by possible ABS. It was therefore agreed that the interests of those who were in direct proximity of the seat would take precedent; Members therefore unanimously **objected** to a new seat at the greensward of Ashingdon Road and Doric Avenue.

46. General Purposes Budget for 2017/18 for recommendation to Finance Committee (amendment):

Following the decision to not reinstate a seat at the greensward of Ashingdon Road and Doric Avenue (Minute 45), Members agreed to amend the General Purposes Budget for 2017/18 (which had previously been agreed at the meeting on the 14th November 2016). It was agreed the budget would be reduced by £700, which had been pre-allocated for the seat installation and thus the total budget for 2017/18 was £20,600. Members further **approved** the amended General Purposes Budget for 2017/18 at £20,600 for recommendation to the Finance Committee.

47. Correspondence

- 1. RDC – Invitation to the Rochford District Parish & Town Council Networking event to be held on the 25th January 2017 -** Councillors Mrs E Gadsdon, R Gardner, Mrs L Shaw and Mrs P Young agreed they would attend the event on the 25th January 2017.
- 2. HPC – Committees & Working Group Summary 2016-17-** Members noted the report which had been circulated to show recent changes within Committee and Working Groups.
- 3. RDC Forum for Surface Water Flooding Issues ('Flood Forum') – Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th October 2016 –** Members noted the Minutes. The Clerk encouraged Members to stay informed about the Forum and Cllr Mrs L Shaw told Members the Forum was open to them, with meetings often held during the daytime. It was agreed that the Clerk would let Members know when the next meeting would occur.
- 4. ECC Passenger Transport – Contact information –** Members noted the contact information.
- 5. The Environmental Agency – 24/7 Hotline information for fly-tipping –** Members noted the information.
- 6. Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – Autumn 2016 –** Members noted the Newsletter.
- 7. RDC – Notification of free parking in RDC car parks for December 2016 –** Members noted that there would be free parking on Saturdays in RDC car parks in December. It was noted that on-road parking was not included.

48. Summary of Decisions:

- Request for a new seat at the greensward of Ashingdon Road and Doric Avenue declined.
- Amended General Purposes Budget for 2017/18 approved for recommendation to Finance Committee.
- Councillors Mrs E Gadsdon, R Gardner, Mrs L Shaw and Mrs P Young to attend Rochford District Parish & Town Council Networking event on the 25th January 2017.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:05pm

Chairman