

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 9th November 2015 at 8.15pm
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Chairman Cllr R Patient, Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs Young, Cllr K Binding, Cllr V Leach, Cllr R Gardner, Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr Mrs M Weir and Cllr D Weir.

44. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

All members were present.

45. Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Pecuniary Interest; or

c) Non-Pecuniary Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 9th November 2015:

None were declared.

46. Public Forum:

None were present.

47. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

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

48. Action Update List – November 2015:

48.1 The Clerk reported she has made limited progress with the erection of the Parish signs as there was conflicting information surrounding obtaining stats for the areas in question. She is awaiting confirmation from an ECC approved contractor in this regard. Members agreed to formally move authority to the Clerk to deal with the erection of the signs, possibly without the stats if the information cannot be obtained.

48.2 Members agreed to hold the Summer Fayre meeting in January.

48.3 Rochford PC seeking consideration to work together to submit LHP bid regarding cycle path request - Noted.

48.4 Establishment of Health & Safety Committee - Actioned and closed.

48.5 Participation in ECC Winter Salt Bag Scheme – Salt delivered. Closed. The report was **accepted** and Members agreed to the removal of closed items from the list.

49. Financial Report – October 2015:

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

50. Agree General Purposes budget for 2016/2017 for recommendation to Finance Committee:

Members discussed the proposed budget. The majority of Members felt the increase was a fair projection and had taken into account inflationary increases across services and utilities. Members discussed the work included for Magnolia Park and agreed that using the Health and Safety budget was relevant as it addressed the issues raised in the Health and Safety audit undertaken. It was noted that Health and Safety was a new area for the Council and the high initial costs were an investment into the future to ensure health and safety requirements are met. Concern was raised by a Member who felt the increase was too high and another who stressed the importance of prioritising work.

The Clerk also brought to the attention of Members the issue of replacing a public seat which had been removed years ago. Members discussed the replacement and voted **against** re-erecting the seat as it had been removed to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area caused by groups of youths who had used the seat to congregate and cause nuisance.

After further discussion regarding possible reductions for the Summer Fayre and Xmas Lights, **Cllrs Mrs P Young moved approval of the proposed budget. This was seconded by Cllr V Leach and was carried by a show of hands with two Members against.**

51. Agree Youth Budget for 2016/17 for recommendation to Finance Committee:
The budget was **approved** for recommendation to the Finance Committee.

52. Health & Safety: Receive minutes of Health & Safety Sub-Committee meeting held on 5th October:
Members **accepted** the minutes as a correct record.

53. Receive Notes of Christmas Parcels Working Group meeting held on 2nd November 2015:
Cllr Mrs L Shaw updated Members she had almost completed obtaining goods for the Christmas parcels and would be contacting volunteers to help with the distribution.
Members accepted and **agreed** the Notes of the Christmas Parcels Working Group.

54. Receive Notes of Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on 2nd November 2015:
Members accepted and **agreed** the Notes of the Christmas Lights Working Group.

55. Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to continue work in order to get Parish signs erected.
- General Purposes Budget approved for recommendation to Finance Committee
- Clerk to send letter to resident explaining why public seat will not be re-erected

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Chairman

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