

**Minutes of a meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 16th April 2012
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Councillors Present: Chairman Cllr R Patient, Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs P Young, Cllrs Mrs C Cunningham, Mrs L Haskew, R Mitchell, D Weir, Mrs M Weir and ex-officio Mr V Leach.

Also Present: Cllr Mrs E Chippette and Mr L Barratt, Secretary - Hawkwell Parish Plan Group (HPPG).

84. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs J Barney (another appointment), Cllr Mrs A Heath (work), Cllr A Williams (work) and Mr E Short, Chairman – HPPG (funeral). Members accepted the apologies tendered.

85. Declarations of interest:

There were none.

86. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2012 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:

Members approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2012 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting.

87. Action Update List:

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

- **New Parish Council Notice board at Hawkwell Village Hall:** Ongoing.
- **Hawkwell Common Christmas tree:** The Clerk circulated an email forwarded by Andy Day giving a recommendation from Peter Middicott of AllGrowth Ltd. In support of this the Clerk added the tree had been put into clay therefore it would get water logged until the tree settled down and the expert had seen shoots on the tree which indicated it was surviving. He advised that RDC approval would need to be sought in order to dig a trench and a sump to drain the water and in carrying out such works the result would require HPC to water the tree. Cllr Weir expressed strong opinions and the Chairman thanked him for his comments. The Chairman referred to the expert's recommendation; he asked Members if they agreed to apply to RDC with some urgency for approval to dig a drain and from there take it step by step and this was approved. The Clerk was instructed accordingly.
- **Halo lights on Pedestrian crossing in Main Road:** As a result of the recent resignation of the Portfolio holder it was agreed that the Clerk write to RDC to seek getting the Halo Lights onto the next Policy Control Meeting agenda.
- **Essex Legacy:** Ongoing.
- **2nd light in footpath at end of Hawkwell Chase:** Column installed.
- **Clerk to enquire after amended bus timetable:** Ongoing.
- **Xmas Lighting Group to meet in May:** Ongoing.
- **Updates to Website:** Up to date at present. Ongoing.

- **Clarify legal position of non-owned alleyways within RDC/ECC:** Members discussed this at length and felt the key would be to discover who owns the land, though the Clerk warned of the complications, time and effort involved in seeking this information. Strong opinions were expressed that parishioners looked to the Council to do something about these areas as they lay in the parish and whether they could be adopted until challenged. Suggestions were put forward to investigate the original planning applications and land registry. It was resolved that an RDC Planning Representative be invited to attend a meeting to discuss this and the Clerk was instructed to do so.
- **Members to monitor and report on state of alleyways within Hawkwell:** Ongoing.
- **Monitor 2012/13 Operational Plan on ongoing basis:** Agreed to remove from list and diarise in office.
- **Co-options of HPPG to Working Group:** Completed, item to be closed.

88. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported a GP under spend of £1238 and Youth of £300 at the year end. There were no questions and Members accepted the financial report.

89. HPPG Action points – notes of meeting and update:

The Clerk circulated an email from Cllr Mrs Young providing information on 3 points missing from the notes of the meeting held on 22nd March. The Chairman went through the notes and the additions. He advised there were lots of things to be done, many of which HPC had no power to deal with, therefore it would lobby RDC and ECC to encourage them to take action. Members accepted the notes. Cllr Mrs Weir queried whether HPC would become responsible for the new bus shelter erected by the developers parallel to the new housing along Rectory Road. The Chairman of Council, Cllr Leach informed Council had not received any communications relating to it. The Clerk added that the bus shelter was a surprise; as far as he was concerned HPC would not be cleaning it. Cllr Mrs Weir went on to say the developers had taken away the dropped curb/pram ramp and replaced it with new pavement, they had taken over the grass verge and lamp posts were now in the new gardens. The Clerk advised that the bus did not drop down but he would worry about a dropped curb as the traffic flowed fast there. The Chairman asked if Council knew who supplied the bus shelter and the Clerk responded he would think it was demanded under Section 106 but no-one had given any thought as to who would maintain it. The Chairman summed up to wait and see what happens as to whether any communications came forth.

90. Summary of Actions/Decisions:

- Three actions to be removed from Action Update List.
- Clerk to apply to RDC with some urgency for approval to dig a drain on Hawkwell Common re. the Christmas Tree.
- Clerk to invite RDC Planning Representative to attend future meeting to discuss the way forward with non-owned alleyways.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman

Footnote to Members: Please recycle this document from within the Full Council Papers for use at the next Standing Committee Meeting.