

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 26th July 2021 at 8:12pm
at the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Councillors present: Mrs L Dalby, R Gardner, S May, R Patient & Mrs M Weir

GP 21/1 To elect a Chairman for the civic year 2021-22:

Cllr R Patient nominated Cllr R Gardner as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr S May and carried by all Members.

GP 21/2 To elect a Vice Chairman for the civic year 2021-22:

Cllr R Gardner elected Cllr R Patient as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr S May and carried by all Members.

GP 21/3 Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr M Strubel.

GP 21/4 Declarations of any:

- a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;**
- b) **Other Pecuniary Interest; or**
- c) **Non-Pecuniary Interest**

on any matter on the agenda for 26th July 2021:

Members made no declarations relating to a), b) or c) or any change in their Register of Members' Interests.

GP 21/5 Public Forum:

No public were present.

GP 21/6 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th November 2020 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

It was **resolved** that the minutes from the meeting held on 26th November 2020 were approved as a correct record and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 21/7 Action Update List (July 2021):

21/7.1 The Youth Working Group (YWG) had been disbanded and would reconvene after the pandemic.

21/7.2 The Clerk had made a submission to the Local Highways Panel (LHP) in January 2021 for an information/warning sign at Main Road for the pinch point in Thorpe Road. The scheme had been due for consideration at the March LHP meeting but had been delayed to June due to the pandemic. The Clerk had chased the LHP Officer and District Cllr P Shaw. The LHP Officer was on secondment and Cllr P Shaw had yet to respond. However, Essex County Councillor (ECC) Mrs L Shaw had been in touch with the Clerk and had reported the Clements Gate Management Committee would be overseeing the closure of the pinch point which would solve the problem of large vehicles often causing damage attempting to pass through it. The ECC Cllr reported the Rectory Road warning sign was going to be made larger. The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council's scheme submission was for appropriate signage at the Main Road junction to prevent large

vehicles accessing the estate, but it appeared this has not been included in the solution so large vehicles would continue to cause obstructions at the pinch point.

GP 21/8 Financial Report – June 2021

There were no questions, and it was **resolved** that Members accepted the Financial Report.

GP 21/9 Parish Street Lights –

a) Consideration of Identification Plates on lighting columns

Members noted the Clerk's report. A Member explained that historically the Parish Identity Working Party had looked at putting Council's triangular logo on all the bus shelters and streetlights, but it had never come to fruition.

Cllr Mrs M Weir proposed option b: purpose-built ID labels that have a column fixing kits and cost £35 each, be fitted to each Parish Council lighting column. This was seconded by Cllr S May with all Members in **agreement**. It was further **agreed** that the Clerk investigate including the Parish Council logo on the signs.

b) Consideration of new lighting column at junction of Elizabeth Close/Hawkwell Chase.

Members noted the Clerk's report which included photographic evidence of a leaning lighting column. It was **resolved** that the leaning column should be rectified. The Clerk would start the process and it was noted that responsibility would lie with UK Power Networks for a large amount of the project.

GP 21/10 Request from resident to relocate the footpath map sign at the junction of the Chase/Ashingdon Road:

Members noted the Clerk's report. A Member reported that the original installation had been approved by the statutory undertakers who had assessed the location. Members enquired if there had been any other complaints and it was noted only one had been received to date. It was further noted the hedgerow near the sign had also been an issue and that ECC had since cut the hedge back. Members considered the alleged visibility issue may be to do with the type of vehicle using the road, noting some vehicles had a higher driving position which therefore may cause view obstruction issues when it came to the sign. It was **agreed** that Cllrs R Gardner, S May and Mrs L Dalby drive the road themselves in their vehicles to assess the situation.

The Clerk informed Members if they were to pursue moving the sign, it would likely take a long time and would be of considerable cost to Council. It was agreed no decision be made until the Cllrs carried out their risk assessments and reported back at the next meeting.

GP 21/11 Summary of Decisions:

- Cllr R Gardner elected Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for 2021-22.
- Cllr R Patient elected Vice Chair of the General Purposes Committee for 2021-22.
- Identification plates for Parish Council streetlights approved – purpose-built ID labels at a cost of £35 each be installed; Clerk to look at adding Council's logo on the signs.
- Leaning lighting column at Elizabeth Close/Hawkwell Chase to be replaced.
- Cllrs R Gardner, S May and Mrs L Dalby to drive along Chase and exit at junction of Main Road to risk assess visibility; Members to review matter at next meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:29pm

Chairman