

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 11th October 2021 at 7:31pm
at the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

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

GP 21/12 Receive apologies for absence:

No apologies were received.

GP 21/13 Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 11th October 2021:

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

GP 21/14 Public Forum:

No public were present.

GP 21/15 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July 2021 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 July 2021 were approved as a correct record and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 21/16 Action Update List (October 2021):

21/16.1 The Local Highways Panel (LHP) submission for the 'information/warning' sign regarding the pinch point at Thorpe Road/Main Road was still under consideration and would be discussed again at the LHP meeting in December 2021. A turning circle had been ruled out, but other measures would be considered.

21/16.2 The ID plates for the parish streetlights were in the process of being installed.

21/16.3 A new lighting column had been installed at Elizabeth Close. The lighting contractor was waiting for UK Power Networks (UKPN) to disconnect the old column and connect the new one before the old column could be removed.

21/16.4 Members were referred to Agenda item 8 (Minute 21/19)

GP 21/17 Financial Report – September 2021

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

GP 21/18 Salt Bag Distribution (referred from Full Council):

Members noted the Clerk's report. Members discussed the legalities around gritting. It was noted that there was a duty of care to employees and users of Council's areas when it came to ice/snow. The Clerk informed Members further information had been received that day about gritting and gave Members a brief synopsis of the Good Samaritan Law 2015.

There was a unanimous vote and it was **resolved** that Council conduct gritting as and when required for areas under its responsibility such as the office and Magnolia car park.

GP 21/19 Request from resident to relocate the footpath map sign at the junction of the Chase/Ashingdon Road:

Three Members had driven the road in their vehicles to assess the situation with the sign. Two Members felt there had been no issues while one Member felt the view was obstructed and had difficulties leaving the junction. One Member had asked a courier driver who regularly delivered to the Chase if they had experienced any problems and they had reported no issues and had not noticed the footpath map sign. It was noted Essex County Council (ECC) had recently conducted work on the overgrown hedges which had improved visibility. Members enquired if there had been any other complaints and it was confirmed only one had been received since the installation of the sign. If any more complaints would be received then Members would look at the matter again. Following a unanimous vote, it was **resolved** that no action be taken and that the sign should remain in position.

GP 21/20 Consider items from inclusion in the 2022-23 budgeting process commencing November 2021

a) General Purposes

Members noted the recommendation made at the Parks Committee meeting for a review of the Parish Council benches/seats.

One Member suggested new playground/adult gym equipment for the Parks; the Clerk pointed out that was a Parks Committee responsibility. The suggestion would be passed to Parks for consideration.

One Member suggested more Christmas lights, particularly for the parade of shops along the Ashingdon Road. One Member suggested adding Christmas lights at the boundaries.

One Member suggested more trees; the Clerk pointed out that was a Parks item and that a group had been established to look at the new planting of trees.

The Clerk distributed information the office had received regarding a 'Tommy statue; for Remembrance 2022; Members would consider the item at the budgeting meeting. A Member suggested a beacon for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations for the White Hart Common; Cllr Mrs M Weir would source the relevant information for Members.

b) Youth

Members agreed supporting existing youth services/projects was the best way forward and mentioned some local services such as Hackspace.

GP 21/21 ECC Essex-wide anti-littering campaign/District & Parish Council involvement: 1. Posters 2. Litter picking equipment – Cllr Mrs L Dalby:

Cllr Mrs L Dalby gave a summary of a Climate Course she had attended and that it had come to light that there was an Anti-Littering Campaign in force across Essex. This gave opportunities to District and Parish Council to advertise the campaign using a range of posters and/or banners and to obtain litter picking equipment. Cllr Mrs L Dalby had been informed that District Councils should have made an approach for the equipment; to date Rochford District Council (RDC) had not made contact but that the equipment would now be sent to RDC regardless. RDC would then have to distribute the equipment to the Parishes in need; Cllr Mrs L Dalby felt it was imperative Council contact RDC to request the equipment.

A Member was unsure how Cllr Mrs L Dalby had learned of the course and was reminded the course had been open to all Members and was on the September Full Council Agenda.

A Member enquired what happened to any litter that may be picked up. The Clerk requested that if any Members did conduct litter picks and would dispose of the rubbish in Council's park bins, the bin contractor would need to be informed in case of additional rubbish and cost implications.

One Member raised concerns about litter picking, feeling that alongside conducting the litter picks, it was important to educate people to deter littering.

Cllr Mrs L Dalby was disappointed that Council had not been notified of the campaign, noting that during August when the parks and open spaces were used heavily, opportunities to promote the campaign had been missed. Cllr Mrs L Dalby also felt the equipment would be best utilised by the Friends of Hawkwell Parks (FoHP), once established.

Members unanimously **agreed** that posters should be obtained for the campaign and advertised accordingly using social media and the noticeboards. Additionally, RDC should be approached to obtain the free litter picking equipment.

GP 21/22 Receive Notes of the Christmas Parcels Working Group (CPWG) meeting held on the 20th September 2021.

Members received the notes of the CPWG meeting held on the 20th September 2021.

GP 21/23 Summary of Decisions:

- Council to carry out gritting of areas under its responsibility, as required.
- Footpath map sign at junction of the Chase/Ashingdon Road to remain.
- Budget suggestions of new playground/adult gym equipment to be referred to Parks.
- Budget suggestions to be reviewed at November's budgeting meeting.
- Council to promote Anti-Littering campaign and source posters; RDC to be approached regarding free litter-picking equipment.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:07pm

Chairman