

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 8:26pm
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 21/24 Receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr T Manyika.

GP 21/25 Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 8th November 2021:

Members made no declarations relating to a), b) or c) or any change in their Register of Members' Interests. The Chairman reminded Members about the requirement to notify the Clerk should there be a change in the Register of Members' Interests.

GP 21/26 Public Forum:

No public were present.

GP 21/27 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th October 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 11th October 2021 were approved as a correct record and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 21/28 Action Update List (October 2021):

- 21/28.1** 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.
- 21/28.2** The ID plates for the parish streetlights had all been installed. A Member reported lights out along Rectory Road by the church were not functioning, but it was noted those lights were the responsibility of Essex County Council (ECC). The Clerk would send all Members a list of lights which HPC were responsible for, for reference. A Member relayed his personal dealings with ECC; the Chairman reminded Members of the agenda item in question and requested the meeting progress accordingly; the Member raised his contempt at the nature of the Chairman's request. Members agreed to close the item.
- 21/28.3** 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.
- 21/28.4** The Clerk had organised collection of some litter pickers and sacks from ECC County Hall; Cllr R Gardner would collect them on the 11th November 2021. A Member raised concerns about Rochford District Council's (RDC) lack of involvement, noting that it should have been RDC to lead the campaign and the pickers should have been available from them. The Clerk explained she had been in touch with RDC over the matter, but the initiative had not been on RDC's radar, and they also had nobody to collect the pickers. The Member was disappointed at RDC's lack of awareness and involvement and would aim to spread the word to other Parish Councillors.

- 21/28.5** It had been agreed HPC would undertake gritting for areas that it had direct responsibility for.
It was **resolved** that Members accepted the Action List update and agreed to the removal of closed items.
- GP 21/29 Financial Report – October 2021**
There were no questions, and it was **resolved** that Members accepted the Financial Report.
- GP 21/30 Agree General Purposes budget 2022-23 (bid 1) for recommendation to the Finance Committee:**
A Member enquired if there was an allocation for ‘climate change’, noting that there would be an onus on Councils to undertake many things such as an audit. It was agreed an allocation for such things would be better placed under the Finance Committee budget. Members noted there had been allocations for a possible Jubilee event and that if the event(s) were to exceed the budget in any way it would be prudent to draw money from the General Reserves, if required. Cllr Mrs M Weir noted she would need to call a meeting of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Working Group as a matter of priority.
There were no further questions and Members unanimously **agreed** the General Purposes budget for 2022-23 of £31,200 be passed to the Finance Committee for recommendation.
- GP 21/31 Agree Youth budget 2022-23 (bid 1) for recommendation to the Finance Committee:**
Members agreed it would be prudent to allow more funds to be available for professional youth groups, noting an increase in the budget of £1.5k.
There were no questions and Members unanimously **agreed** the Youth budget for 2022-23 of £3k be passed to the Finance Committee for recommendation.
- GP 21/32 Report (Oct 2021) for Rochford District on schemes managed by the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP):**
Members noted the information. The Clerk recorded thanks to ECC Cllr Mrs L Shaw who was proactive in sending Members extra useful information.
- GP 21/33 Receive Notes of Working Group:**
a. Christmas Lights Working Group meeting held on the 11th October 2021:
Members received the notes.
b. Christmas Parcels Working Group meeting held on the 11th October 2021:
Members received the notes.
- GP 21/34 Summary of Decisions:**
- Clerk to send Members an updated list of Council’s streetlights.
 - Climate change budget allocation to be considered by Finance Committee.
 - General Purposes budget for 2022-23 of £31,200 agreed; to be passed to the Finance Committee for recommendation.
 - Youth budget for 2022-23 of £3k agreed; to be passed to the Finance Committee for recommendation.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:49pm

Chairman