

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 14th November 2022 at 8:15pm
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford**

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

GP 22/1 To elect a Chairman for the civic year 2022-23:

Cllr R Patient nominated Cllr R Gardner as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr S May. It was **resolved** that Cllr R Gardner be elected to serve as Chairman for the civic year 2022-23.

GP 22/2 To elect a Vice Chairman for the civic year 2022-23:

Cllr R Gardner elected Cllr R Patient as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr M Strubel. It was **resolved** that Cllr R Patient be elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for the civic year 2022-23.

GP 22/3 Receive apologies for absence:

All Members were present.

GP 22/4 Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 14th November 2022:

Members made no declarations.

GP 22/5 Public Forum:

No public were present.

GP 22/6 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March 2022 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

It was **resolved** that the minutes from the meeting held on 21st March 2022 were approved as a correct record and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 22/7 Action Update List (November 2022):

- 22/7.1** The Local Highways Panel (LHP) scheme relating to Thorpe Road/Main Road, had not been taken forward. Members agreed to close the item.
- 22/7.2** The new lighting column at Elizabeth Close had been installed but UKPower Networks (UKPN) were still due to connect the electrical supply. The contractor was trying to contact UKPN.
- 22/7.3** The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group (QPJWG) had been disbanded. Members agreed to close the item.
- 22/7.4** A new Christmas set piece would be installed at the Golden Cross shopping parade on the 28th November. Members agreed to close the item.

- GP 22/8 Financial Report – October 2022.**
There were no questions, and it was **resolved** that Members accepted the Financial Report.
- GP 22/9 Agree General Purposes Budget 2023/24 (Bid 1) for recommendation to the Finance Committee:**
Members noted the Clerk's proposal to reduce the budget by £6,300 for 2023-24. Members briefly discussed providing more Christmas lights for the shopping parade at Ashingdon hill, but it was noted there had been difficulties in the past with the landlord and power supplies. The Clerk pointed out that it was prudent to be mindful of costs during the financial crisis and that Council's Reserves could be used for such things should they be deemed to be appropriate and warranted.
A Member enquired about allocating monies for celebrations for the King's Coronation, but it was noted monies could be taken from the Reserves should that be approved and go ahead. Cllr Mrs M Weir would need to set up a working group accordingly.
Members discussed the proposal for an Eco-fair and it was noted there was possible external funding available; a working group for the fair would need to start work on the proposal and would need to investigate the funding accordingly.
It was **agreed** that the General Purposes budget for 2023-24 of £21,400 be passed to the Finance Committee for recommendation.
- GP 22/10 Agree Youth Budget 2023/24 (Bid 1) for recommendation to the Finance Committee:**
It was **agreed** that the Youth budget for 2023-24 of £3,000 be passed to the Finance Committee for recommendation,
- GP 22/11 Request from resident for a memorial bench at/near Golden Cross:**
a) Email attached: Members noted the email.
b) Picture of existing bench outside Hedingham Place:
Members agreed it would be more practical to replace an existing bench given the difficulties of new street installations and the permissions required.
It was **approved** that permission be given to the resident to replace the existing bench outside Hedingham Place as a memorial bench.
- GP 22/12 Receive notes of working groups:**
a) Christmas Parcels Working Group (CPWG) – Meetings held on 3rd October 2022 and 7th November 2022: Members received the notes.
b) Christmas Lights Working Group (CLWG) – Meeting held on the 7th November 2022: Members received the notes.
- GP 22/13 Summary of Decisions:**
- Cllr R Gardner elected Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for 2022-23.
 - Cllr R Patient elected Vice Chair of the General Purposes Committee for 2022-23.
 - General Purposes budget for 2023-34 of £21,400 approved; to be passed to Finance Committee for recommendation.
 - Cllr Mrs M Weir to set up a working group for the King's Coronation celebrations.
 - Youth Budget for 2023-24 of £3,000 approved; to be passed to the Finance Committee for recommendation.
 - Memorial bench approved; existing bench outside Hedingham Place to be replaced.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:30pm

Chairman