

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7:30pm
at the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

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

GP 23/14 Receive apologies for absence:

All Members were present.

GP 23/15 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Pecuniary Interest; or

c) Non-Pecuniary Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 13th March 2023:

Members made no declarations.

GP 23/16 Public Forum:

No public were present.

GP 23/17 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 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 14th November 2022 were approved as a correct record and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 23/18 Action Update List (March 2023):

23/18.1 The new lighting column at Elizabeth Close had been installed and all connections had been carried out. Members agreed to close the item.

23/18.2 Members were referred to agenda item 7 (Minute GP 23/20)

It was **resolved** that Members accepted the Action List update and agreed to the removal of closed items.

GP 23/19 Financial Report – February 2023:

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

GP 23/20 Update on the request for a memorial seat at/near Golden Cross:

Members noted the Clerk's report. Members were reminded they had given approval for a replacement seat outside of Hedingham Place. It was noted the resident had since requested a new seat be placed in a new location instead of just having an existing bench replaced. Members discussed the difficulties involved in trying to obtain permissions and noted the information received from Essex County Council (ECC).

It was **resolved** that permission for a new seat in a new location be **refused** by Members given the range of difficulties and work involved.

Members discussed an alternative option to Hedingham Place, noting there was a bench outside Golden Cross, by the bus stop, which required replacing and could potentially be a good option for a new memorial seat. The existing bench did not have adequate foot space with the footpath and cycle path running in front of it and Members suggested if a

replacement bench be installed then re-siting it back from the walkaway may be advisable.

It was **resolved** that permission for a replacement bench at Golden Cross, by the bus stop, be given. Members requested the Clerk contact the resident and make them aware of potential significant costs and work involved should they want to go ahead. The Clerk pointed out costs were impossible to determine at this stage, but expected them to be substantial given the ground works involved.

GP 23/21 Parish streetlighting maintenance contract:

It was noted the Clerk had tried to get another quote, but the other contractor had not submitted one. Members asked for the Clerk's opinion on the current contractor, and it was noted they had provided an exemplary service over the years. It was further noted that since they had replaced the lights to LEDs there had been minimal repairs.

It was **resolved** that Members accept a 5-year lighting contract with A&J Lighting Solutions Ltd.

GP 23/22 Allotment Working Group (AWG) emails attached; progress report:

The emails were noted. Some Members viewed their individual opinions on allotments. Members felt communication needed to be improved between the AWG and were unsure of the current progress of the group. Cllr M Vallance volunteered to email the Chair of the AWG for further clarity and to request communications be improved. It was noted the Terms of Reference (ToR) were still required before the group could progress.

GP 23/23 Information on current and upcoming road closures in Hawkwell East:

Members noted the report and discussed their views on road closures in the area, feeling there was a continual issue with poor co-ordination during works.

GP 23/24 Damage to parish streetlight by third party vehicle – verbal update from Clerk:

The Clerk explained that three-weeks ago a truck had backed into a streetlight and had pushed the column over to a near 45 degree angle, leaving the column in a dangerous position. A resident had contacted Council and had kindly sourced video evidence of the accident which had identified a sign-written truck. The Clerk had made the necessary contact with the companies involved and had sought to recoup losses through their insurance. It was noted Council's lighting contractor had acted quickly and had repaired the damage, reinstating the light back to its safe and functioning position. The Clerk had since chased the insurance company and had been informed they were awaiting comment from their client.

GP 23/25 Essex Highways Toolkit - February 2023:

Members noted the information.

GP 23/26 Summary of decisions:

- New location for memorial bench refused; alternative option approved for a replacement bench at Golden Cross (bus-stop area); Clerk to notify requestee to see if they will want to pursue the matter.
- Cllr M Vallance to email Chair of AWG to clarify current progress and note difficulties with communications.
- 5-year streetlighting contractor and contract approved.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:03pm

Chairman