

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7:30pm
at the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Committee Cllrs present: Chairman R Gardner, Mrs L Dalby, T Hargrave, Mrs L Massey, S May, M Strubel, & Mrs M Weir.

Also present: Cllr L Fane & one member of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting and gave condolences following the passing of Cllr R Patient. Members observed a minute's silence and gave tribute to Cllr R Patient's 22 years as Parish Councillor.

GP 24/34 Receive apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs J Strubel had given apologies.
Members received the apologies tendered.

GP 24/35 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Registrable Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 12th February 2024:

Members made no declarations.

GP 24/36 Public Forum:

One member of the public was present.

GP 24/37 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th November 2023 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

It was **resolved** that the minutes from the meeting held on 13th November 2023 were approved as a correct record. Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 24/38 Action Update List (February 2024):

- 24/38.1** The wooden Christmas display at Emmanuel Church had been a success. Members were pleased there had been no vandalism.
- 24/38.2** The conifers which were obstructing the light in the Bosworth Close to Main Road alleyway had since been cut back. Members agreed to close the item.
- 24/38.3** It was noted the bleed kits would need to be monitored to ensure the contents were not out of date. The Clerk would enquire with Hockley Parish Council how the units were managed and would also make enquiries with Clements Hall Leisure Centre to see if they had a kit. It was **resolved** that Members noted and accepted the Action Update List and agreed to the removal of the closed items.

GP 24/39 Financial Report – January 2024:

The Clerk reported the General Purposes budget was 76% spent against an expected 86%. There were no questions, and it was **resolved** that Members accepted the Financial Report.

GP 24/40 Ideas for consideration from Cllr T Hargrave:

a) Christmas nativity display:

Members noted Cllr T Hargrave's email and his suggestion to add additional characters to the Emmanuel Church Christmas nativity wooden display. It was noted the characters would be made from wood and it was anticipated that The Men's Shed Association (UKMSA) would carry out the works. Members proposed adding a similar structure to the Baptist Church in Rectory Road and it was agreed enquiries would need to be made with the church to see if they would like such a structure. Cllr T Hargrave proposed that Three Wise Men be added to the Emmanuel Church display; Cllr L Fane volunteered to conduct research to ensure the characters were culturally appropriate.

It was **agreed** to add animals and additional characters to the Emmanuel Church display, subject to research. The Baptist Church would also be approached to see if they would like the same structure for Christmas.

b) Remembrance display:

Members discussed having a temporary Remembrance structure made from treated wood, along with a knitted poppy garden on the White Hart Common. It was noted permission would need to be obtained from Rochford District Council (RDC).

It was anticipated UKMSA would conduct the work to create the structures and a local knitting group may be able to create the poppies, with all material costs to be covered by Council. Members also discussed adding a plaque to the garden to identify the Parish Council and having the garden open in timing with the British Legion Poppy Appeal. It was unclear how the garden would work with regards to having residents add their poppies to the area; further consideration was needed.

Members **agreed** to create designs for the figures and garden and bring back to the next meeting.

c) Main road shopping parade baskets:

Members discussed adding two flower troughs on the outer car park railings of the Main Road shopping parade. Cllr T Hargrave and Cllr L Fane volunteered to take care of the watering and it was anticipated the White Hart Garage may assist with giving Members access to water; they would be contacted accordingly.

Cllr A MacPherson would make enquiries with Hockley Parish Council to find out the supplier of their troughs.

Cllr T Hargrave left the Chambers at 7:56pm

Members noted the railings were owned by the Landlord of the car park and permissions would need to be obtained.

Cllr T Hargrave returned to the Chambers at 7:59pm

d) Harvest Festival event:

Members noted Cllr Hargrave's email and suggestions contained therein. Members felt it would be a good opportunity to incorporate the EcoFair which had been agreed by Council. Members discussed using the Village Hall as the venue for a Harvest Festival.

Members **agreed** to set up a Working Group for the event; Cllrs T Hargrave, R Gardner, L Fane, Mrs L Dalby, Mrs L Massey, S May would join the group.

GP 24/41 Christmas Parcels Project 2023:

Members noted the Clerk's report and that the project had fallen within budget. 88 food parcels had been delivered along with 122 boxes of biscuits.

GP 24/42 Summary of decisions:

- Clerk to enquire with Hockley Parish Council how the bleed kit units are managed; Clerk to also enquire with Clements Hall Leisure Centre to see if they have a kit.
- Enquires to be made with Hawkwell Baptist Church to see if they would site a wooden nativity display for Christmas 2024, the same as Emmanuel Church's display.
- Further characters to be added to the Emmanuel nativity display including animals and Three Wise Men, subject to the research conducted by Cllr L Fane.
- Members to put forward design proposals for the Remembrance Garden idea for White Hart Common. Clerk to contact RDC to see if permissions can be granted. Further consideration to be given about how the poppy garden could work.
- Cllr A MacPherson to make enquires with Hockley Parish Council about the supplier of their street flower troughs. Permission to be obtained from Landlord. Cllrs T Hargrave and L Fane to take care of watering if project goes ahead.
- Harvest Festival Fair Working Group established, consisting of Cllrs T Hargrave, L Fane, R Gardner, Mrs L Dalby, Mrs L Massey and S May.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:05pm

Chairman