

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 29th July 2024 at 8:15pm
at the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Councillors present: Chair R Gardner, Mrs L Dalby, T Hargrave, A MacPherson, Mrs L Massey, S May (until 8:45pm), & Mrs M Weir.

Also present: Two members of the public.

GP 24/11 Receive apologies for non-attendance at meeting:
Members received apologies from Cllr L Fane.

GP 24/12 Declarations of any:
a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;
b) Other Registrable Interest
on any matter on the agenda for 29th July 2024:
Members made no declarations.

GP 24/13 Public Forum:
Two members of the public were present.

GP 24/14 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th May 2024 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:
It was **resolved** that the minutes from the meeting held on 20th May 2024 were approved as a correct record and Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 24/15 Action Update List (July 2024):

24/15.1 The Clerk had spoken to the reverend at the Hawkwell Baptist Church and had confirmed they would like a similar nativity display as Emmanuel Church. The UK Men's Shed Association (UKMSA) had confirmed the design for three kings on camels and a donkey.

24/15.2 Cllr R Gardner gave a summary about the bleed kits provided by Daniel Baird. He informed Members they cost £350 and they were monitored on a similar system as the defibrillators. He reported training would be available via the kit providers.
It was **resolved** that two cabinet bleed kits be purchased to be sited at Clements Hall and Hawkwell Baptist Church. The Clerk reminded Members there was no budget for the kits and permissions would need to be obtained from both Clements Hall and the Baptist Church; the Clerk would aim to source funding for the kits.

24/15.3 Members were referred to Agenda item 7 (Minute GP 24/17)

24/15.4 The flower baskets at the Main Road shopping parade had been installed and planted. The Clerk confirmed a bid for £500 had been awarded and had now been received. The plants would need regular watering and Cllr T Hargrave had volunteered to do this, along with Cllr L Fane. Members discussed the ongoing maintenance of the planters and it was noted that no planning or decision about future plantings had been made. The boxes had been fitted with brackets which were not easily removable. Cllr T Hargrave requested that the planters be taken off after the summer season and returned to Potash where he could plant suitable plants for Spring. Members were concerned about the workforce and time required for removing the baskets. It was **agreed** to enjoy the planters as they were and

consider keeping the planters in situ for all-year enjoyment, trial planting them on site and adding winter plants after the summer season.

24/15.5 Members were referred to Agenda item 8 (Minute GP 24/18)

24/15.6 A further public meeting about the future of the Freight House had been held on the 18th July 2024. Cllr Mrs M Weir had been the only HPC Member in attendance. She reported there had been dedicated support for an action group to help save the Freight House, but more people were needed. Cllr R Gardner informed Members there was no registered owner of the Freight House, having researched the matter and requested the Clerk verify this.

Cllr T Hargrave left the Chambers at 8:34pm.

Cllr Mrs M Weir informed Members there would be a public consultation about the Freight House but was unsure when that would be.

Cllr T Hargrave returned to the Chambers at 8:36pm.

Cllr Mrs M Weir raised concerns that no Hawkwell residents had shown interest or support for saving the Freight House.

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

GP 24/16 Financial Report – July 2024:

There were no questions. It was **resolved** that Members accepted the Financial Report.

GP 24/17 Remembrance Garden Project:

a) Drawings of figures provided by Cllr S May:

Cllr S May had provided a design with four figures: a nurse, an airman, a soldier, and a sailor. A Member raised concerns that the design could be interpreted as misogynistic and was also unsure if the female nurse was a fair representation. Members noted that the traditional 'Tommy' figure depicted a man and the drawings proposed a mixture of man and woman. The Clerk suggested the features be softened on the outlines so the figures could depict either a man or woman.

A Member enquired if animals should also be represented in the garden design, given their importance during war. One Member proposed a pigeon figure, but Cllr S May felt that the 4ft figure would be misleading and out of proportion to the other figures.

Cllr S May left the meeting at 8:45pm.

It was agreed that the figures could be added to in the coming years and consideration about animals could be given. It was noted that time was of the essence and that the UKMSA would be making the figures.

It was **resolved** that the drawing proposed by Cllr S May be approved and that the design be sent to UKMSA for action. It was further **agreed** that should Council receive any complaints about the Remembrance Garden, the matter would be dealt with and the designs changed and/or improved.

b) Drawings of site design for submission to Rochford District Council (RDC) provided by Cllr S May:

It was **resolved** to accept the site design. The Clerk would submit to RDC.

c) Consider style of poppies and who will provide them and how they will be made available to residents:

Cllr Mrs L Massey informed Members there would be a staff meeting about the possibility of having the school children create poppies for the Remembrance Garden and this would happen in the new term. The Clerk raised concerns about the lack of time and felt that might be too long to wait. It was **agreed** the local knitting groups be contacted to see if they would assist, along with the local WI groups.

d) Publicity:

Members felt it would be a good project to advertise in the newsletter, either before the garden was in place or after. Members **agreed** using Facebook to advertise the garden. Given the lack of time, Members felt it would be more prudent to install the garden without the involvement of residents who may want to lay a poppy; it was **agreed** that would be considered the following year.

GP 24/18 Consider cancelling the Harvest Festival Fayre – verbal update from Clerk:

Members noted that there had been no action from the Working Group and that time was running out. There were not enough Members to carry the project through and those on the Working Group had other commitments meaning they were unable to progress the project. It was therefore **agreed** to cancel the Harvest Festival Fayre for 2024.

The Clerk would inform Hawkwell Village Hall (HVH); it was noted 50% of the deposit would be lost due to the period in which the cancellation would be made.

GP 24/19 Summary of decisions:

- Two cabinet bleed kits to be purchased and sited at Clements Hall and Hawkwell Baptist Church (subject to permissions); Clerk to try and find suitable funding.
- Planters at Hawkwell Main Road shopping parade to stay in situ with the possibility of winter planting on site. To be trialled accordingly. Cllrs T Hargrave and L Fane to water the plants during the summer season.
- Remembrance Garden designs approved; Clerk to pass on to the UKMSA for action and to contact RDC for approval of site design.
- Clerk to contact WI and Church knitting groups to enquire about knitting poppies for the Remembrance Garden.
- Remembrance Garden to be advertised in newsletter and on Facebook at an appropriate time.
- Consideration for public's involvement for laying of poppies to be given in 2025.
- Harvest Festival Fayre event for 28th September 2024 cancelled. Clerk to contact HVH to cancel booking; 50% of deposit lost due to timeframe of cancellation.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:54pm

Chair