

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 3rd March 2025 8:35pm
at the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Cllrs present: Chair R Gardner, Mrs L Massey, L Fane, T Hargrave, A MacPherson, S May & Mrs M Weir.

GP 25/49 Receive apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

All Members were present.

GP 25/50 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Registrable Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 3rd March 2025:

Members made no declarations.

GP 25/51 Public Forum:

Two members of the public were present.

GP 25/52 Approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2024 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2024 were approved as a correct record. Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 25/53 Action Update List (March 2025):

25/53.1 Members were referred to Agenda item 10a (Minute GP 25/58a).

25/53.2 The Bleed Kits had been installed in December 2024.

25/53.3 Members were referred to Agenda item 9 (Minute GP 25/57).

25/53.4 The Main Road planters had been replanted that day. Members thanked Cllr T Hargrave for his continued efforts in maintaining the planters to a high standard. The Clerk would post pictures of the new plants on Facebook the next day.

Members discussed the summer planting and it was noted Cllr T Hargrave requested the troughs be removed and be placed in Potash's greenhouses so the plants could be given a healthy start. Members were reminded that removing the troughs was not a prudent option given the difficult re-installation. It was therefore agreed that the plants be started in Potash's greenhouses and replanted on site at Main Road. Cllr L Fane volunteered to assist Cllr T Hargrave when planting would take place.

25/53.5 Members were being kept updated about the future of the Freight House at Full Council meetings. A Member suggested adding this matter to the Annual Parishioners' Meeting. This would be explored at Full Council under the appropriate item. Members agreed to close the item.

25/53.6 Members were referred to Agenda item 10b (Minute GP 25/58b).

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

GP 25/54 Financial Report – February 2025:

The Clerk reported the General Purposes Committee budget was 85% spent and expected the budget to be fully spent by the financial year-end.

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

GP 25/55 Eco-Audit update report:

a) Copy of 3Acorns Eco-Audit update report: The information was noted.

b) Eco-Audit Status Tracking Report: The information was noted.

It was **agreed** that a Working Group be formed to go through the Eco-Audit. The WG would consist of Cllrs R Gardner, L Fane and newly appointed Cllr Miss M Ward.

GP 25/56 Christmas Parcels Project:

a) Christmas parcel food cost and comparison with 2023 figures: A Member recorded praise for purchasing the items cheaper than the previous year. Thanks were relayed to those who had purchased the items.

b) Email feedback from resident: Members noted the email and request for non-chocolate biscuits. Members felt the current choice of biscuits was suitable and no action would be taken following the email request.

GP 25/57 Review of Remembrance Garden Project:

Members expressed their views that the project had been met with success, but felt that the silhouette figures could be improved, particularly when it came to size. Members enquired if the UK Men's Shed (UKMSA) would be willing to create the silhouettes again, with an improved design. Members agreed it would be prudent to use a template based on the original designs produced by Cllr S May; Cllr L Fane volunteered to source the appropriate templates. The Clerk would contact the UKSMA as soon as possible to ascertain whether they would be willing to revisit the project for 2025.

GP 25/58 Christmas projects:

a) Review wooden display(s) in conjunction with UKMSA:

It was **agreed** the Clerk contact the UKSMA to ascertain whether they would be willing to continue their work regarding the wooden nativity displays at Emmanuel Church and Hawkwell Baptist Church.

b) Consideration of Christmas tree/additional lights:

Members discussed having lights along Main Road but it was noted that raised many issues in terms of permissions and health and safety. It was also noted that would only cover a portion of the Hawkwell parish and similar lights would not be feasible along the Ashingdon Road given the central boundary with Ashingdon and Rochford.

Consideration was given to having a Christmas tree on the Hawkwell Common, noting that had historically been the place where Council had erected a tree. Members also noted that the local church held 'Carols on the Green' during Christmas and wondered if the addition of a tree could be tied in with their event.

It was **agreed** the Clerk contact Council's current lighting contractor in the first instance to ascertain whether lights could be powered for a tree using any of the lighting sources in that location. Following that, a Working Group would be established, if necessary, to work through potential plans.

GP 24/59 Summary of decisions:

- Cllr L Fane to assist Cllr T Hargrave in summer for the planting of the Main Road planters.
- Suggestion of having the Freight House matter on the Annual Parishioners' meeting to be passed to Full Council for consideration.
- Working Group consisting of Cllrs L Fane, R Gardner and M Ward to be formed; group to go through current recommendation in Eco-Audit.
- No action regarding changing biscuit choice for Christmas Parcels initiative.
- Clerk to contact UKMSA regarding Remembrance displays and Christmas nativities. Cllr L Fane to source templates for Remembrance silhouettes.
- Clerk to contact Council's lighting contractor to understand how a Christmas tree may be powered on Hawkwell Common. If a tree proves to be feasible, a Working Group to be established to work through potential plans.

The Vice-Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:24pm.

Chair