

**Minutes of the meeting of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held on Monday 13th April at 8:10pm at the
Hockley & Hawkwell Day Centre, Southend Road,
Library Car Park, Hockley**

Councillors present: Chair Mrs L Massey, J Dunkley, T Hargrave (from 8:12pm), C Morris, Miss M Ward & Mrs M Weir.

GP 26/64 Receive apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Members received apologies from Cllr S May.

GP 26/65 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Registrable Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 13th April 2026:

Members made no declarations.

GP 26/66 Public Forum:

One member of the public was present. P1 enquired what the status was with the Christmas tree and if it was progressing.

GP 26/67 Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 9th March 2026 and approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2026 were approved as a correct record; Members agreed to the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

GP 26/68 Action Update List (April 2026):

26/68.1 The Main Road planters would be re-planted on the 29th April. Cllrs T Hargrave and Miss M Ward would carry out the replanting.

26/68.2 The Clerk had met Council's lighting contractor to discuss the electricity supply for the Christmas tree. The contractor was due to send a report to the Clerk following this meeting. It was intended that the festoons at Golden Cross and Main Road shopping parade would be replaced. The Christmas tree was intended to be sited on Hawkwell Common. Council's lighting contractor had consulted with UK Power Networks (UKPN) about the connections and, in principle, connections were possible. It was noted that Council's lighting contractor had stipulated they would not be willing to put their cherry picker on the common given the winter ground conditions. The Clerk informed Members there would be several difficulties having a real tree and reminded Members of their ecological aims in line with declaring a Climate Emergency several years ago. The Clerk also pointed out the difficulties other Parish Councils faced when it came to sourcing a suitable tree. Members **agreed** they wanted a tree on the common and for it to be as realistic to a real tree as possible. Members discussed having sponsorship for the tree but it was **agreed** Council had adequate funds to purchase the tree. It was **agreed** that Members look at tree ideas, ready to come back for review at the next meeting.

26/68.3 The Environmental Working Group (EWG) had agreed to arrange a meeting in the Summer. No dates had been arranged but the Clerk suggested they meet in July.

26/68.4 Members were referred to agenda item 8 (Minute GP 26/71).

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

GP 26/69 Councillor Actions

The majority of actions were addressed at agenda item 8 (Minute GP 26/71).

GP 26/70 Financial Report – March 2026:

It was **resolved** that Members accepted the Financial Report.

GP 26/71 Phone Box restoration project:

a) Lock: It was **agreed** that a twin rack bolt system be added to the phone box. It was also **agreed** the escutcheons be painted Post Office Red.

b) Transoms: It was **agreed** to add 'Hawkwell' to the fourth transom.

c) Plaque: Members **approved** the wording for the donator plaque.

d) Delivery: It was **agreed** to opt for the delivery option that had the phone box collected from Remember When and delivered straight to the White Hart Common. It was noted offload time would be about an hour and the lorry would have to be able to get close enough to the offload site. It was noted the delivery site would need to be cordoned off.

e) Artwork progress: It was **agreed** that Cllr T Hargrave arrange for a draft drawing proposal and to collaborate with a local artist to ascertain the cost of the work; Cllr S May was no longer able to carry out the artwork. The Clerk would obtain the size of the back panel and Cllr C Morris would cut out a piece of wood as a template to assist Cllr T Hargrave drafting a design.

f) Site visit to Hawkwell Common 9th April: Members had conducted a site visit and **agreed** to a location on the White Hart Common. (What3Words///gadgets.bets.skies)

g) Agree donation to historian and amount: Members **agreed** £50 be paid to the local historian for the materials used. An invoice was required; the Clerk would contact the historian accordingly.

h) Agree next steps: Members summarised the next steps:

- Cllr T Hargrave to mockup a design with the local artist. A price for their work would need to be obtained.
- Members were to assist with content, in terms of suggesting more historic sites/dates
- Clerk to re-contact Rochford District Council, to progress matter and ensure placement of phone box can go ahead in the chosen location.
- Cllr J Dunkley to bring another idea to the next agenda.

GP 26/72 Summary of decisions:

- Main Road planters to be re-planted on 29th April by Cllrs T Hargrave and Miss M Ward.
- Members to research tree ideas in time for next meeting; tree to be as realistic to a 'real' Christmas tree as possible.
- Phone Box project progressing: lock to be added to phone box and painted in red; Hawkwell to be added to additional transom; delivery option of phone box agreed; artwork mock-up for museum content to be carried out by Cllr T Hargrave in conjunction with local artist and for Members to suggest other land marks and dates for content; local artist to provide a price for works; Donator plaque wording agreed; Cllr C Morris to provide a plywood cut out of back board to assist Cllr T Hargrave in his mock-up; specific location of phone box agreed; Clerk to pursue matter with RDC; £50 be given to the local historian to cover material costs. Clerk to contact and obtain necessary invoice.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:51pm

Chair