



HOCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Old Fire Station, 58 Southend Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 4QH

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Minutes from the Full Council meeting held on Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.30pm at the Old Fire Station, 58 Southend Road, Hockley.

Present:	<u>Chairman:</u>	Cllr. R. Martin		
	<u>Vice Chairman:</u>	Cllr. V. Randall		
	<u>Councillors:</u>	Cllr. M. Anderson	Cllr. N. Boxall	Cllr. S. Chelmsford
		Cllr. T. Gleadall	Cllr. B. Hazlewood	Cllr. S. James
		Cllr. S. Martin	Cllr. P. Meacham	Cllr. B. O'Shea
		Cllr. B. Thorogood	Cllr. L. Vingoe	
	<u>Officers:</u>	Kelly Holland, Locum Clerk Margaret Saunders, Responsible Financial Officer		
	<u>County Councillor:</u>	Carole Weston		
	<u>District Councillors:</u>	Adrian Eaves		
	<u>Visitors:</u>	Mike Steptoe , Deputy Leader of Rochford District Council Arthur Williams , Portfolio Holder for Environment, Rochford District Council George Ioannou , Portfolio Holder for Enterprise, Rochford District Council Angela Hutchings , Strategic Director, Rochford District Council		
	<u>Members of the public:</u>	Eleven		

FC18/167 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. M. Carter and T. Carter.

RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted.

FC18/168 Declarations of Interests

None declared.

FC18/169 Minutes from Parish Council meetings

RESOLVED that

- (a) the minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 19th November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

- (b) the minutes from the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 26th November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

FC18/170 District and County Councillor reports

The visitors from Rochford District Council answered questions in relation to the proposed downgrading of Hockley library to a tier 3 library and the arrangements for the public toilets. The following information was given:

Hockley Library

- The library is not within Rochford District Council's key assets strategy. The District Council own and operate the car park behind the library and Essex County Council own and operate the library site.
- Essex County Council approached Rochford District Council in 2017 for a joint redevelopment scheme of the site, however Angela Hutchings had been told by Essex County Council that there were no immediate plans to bring the scheme forward.
- There would be no decision regarding the redevelopment of the library site until after the consultation.
- There are no other adjacent sites owned by Rochford District Council that may be considered for development.
- Should the Parish Council be interested in a community library, it should approach Essex County Council direct.
- It was highlighted that it was very important that the Parish Council and members of the public respond to the library consultation as individuals.
- It was noted that there were 5 schools (approximately 3000 children) within 1 mile of the library who use it during the school day.
- The library was also used by a mother and baby group.
- The Deputy Leader of Rochford District Council would hope that the District Council would look at ways to keep the library open should it be downgraded though this may not be in the same form, i.e. it may need to move location and be run by volunteers.
- County Councillor Carole Weston was trying to find out why the library had been allocated as a tier 3 as the figures show that this is not the case.
- Residents felt that the decision to downgrade the library had already been made.
- The results from the library consultation were expected in the summer, residents would be provided with the date of the meeting that the consultation would be considered by Essex County Council.

Public Toilets

- Once the lease had been signed, Rochford District Council officers could then instruct the contractors who could start work within a couple of months. The refurbishment is expected to take 6 – 8 weeks.
- Rochford District Council had no budget for maintenance for the public toilets therefore, should the Parish Council decide not to lease the toilets, the facility

would close in September 2019.

Further to Standing Order 1a, the order of business was changed.

FC18/171 Public Participation Session

Residents spoke regarding the proposed downgrading of the library to tier 3, the following points were raised:

- The library report stated that there would not be any funding for libraries in 5 years.
- There was confusion as to where the figures had come from which had been included in the needs assessment; residents believed that the figures were flawed.
- To date, the petition had 4,000 signatures, support had been received from 2 schools and 900 people had attended the library raid on 12th January 2019.
- The schools regularly use the service and would have to purchase books should it close.
- The library was not just about books; it was affiliated to the J9 scheme where those suffering domestic abuse could go for advice and support, it offers those who are lonely or socially isolated a place to go free of charge and also provides a place for residents to study. It also provided digital access for residents who do not have this in their homes.
- It was noted that the Hockley library scored the same as the Canvey Island library, however this library was tier 1.
- There was mention to section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 which detailed the '...duty of every library authority to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use of'.
- The County Councillor mentioned that other counties had managed to cease library services.

FC18/172 Library consultation

A draft letter was put to members who discussed the content and whether any additions were required.

RESOLVED that the draft letter be sent to County Councillor Susan Barker to include an invitation to a meeting with residents and Hockley Parish Council.

FC18/173 Hockley Public Toilets

Members considered the current proposals for a full refurbishment of the toilets with a 10 year lease from the District Council. It was noted that a breakout clause had been added in case the Parish Council wanted to consider toilet provision as part of the potential redevelopment of the library site.

RESOLVED that the draft lease for a full refurbishment of the toilet block for a 10 year term be forwarded onto the Parish Council's solicitors for consideration and comment.

FC18/174 Budget and Precept for 2019/20

Consideration was given to the budget and precept for 2019/20, a budget of £281,150 was required.

The general reserves had reduced significantly in 2018/19 due to circumstances throughout the year, this coupled with new initiatives that were planned including taking over maintenance of the public toilets and the allotment provision had resulted in an increase in budgeted expenditure.

It was noted that the Responsible Financial Officer had managed to make saving of over £2,000 on utilities.

Members were advised that the Resources and Procedures Committee had scrutinised the budget line by line before it was put to the Parish Council. It was noted that the precept had not been increased for 6 years plus the Local Council Tax Support Grant would halve in 2019/20 to £3,866.00 and that in 2020/21 there would be no grant.

RESOLVED that a precept of £267,184 was required for 2019/20.

FC18/175 Bus Consultation

It was noted that the consultation regarding changes to the evening and Sunday services would be passed to the Communities Committee for comments.

FC18/176 Minutes from Committee meetings

RESOLVED that

- (a) the minutes from the Communities Committee meeting held on 7th January 2019 be noted;
- (b) the minutes from the Environment Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2018 be noted;
- (c) the minutes from the Festive Lights Sub-Committee meeting held on 16th January 2019 be noted;
 - (i) the election of Cllr. B. Thorogood as Chairman of the Sub-Committee be approved;
 - (ii) the recommendation from the Sub-Committee to renew the Festive Lights contract option for a 3rd year with Aylesford Electrical at a cost of £12,200 plus VAT be approved;
 - (iii) the Parish Council will hold a festive event on 30th November 2019;
 - (iv) the correspondence from Wells Legal complimenting the Christmas lights

display be noted.

- (d) the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2018 be noted;
- (e) the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th December 2018 be noted;
- (f) the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 7th January 2019 be noted;
- (g) the minutes from the Resources and Procedures meeting held on 26th November 2018 be noted;
- (h) the minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting held on 22nd November 2018 be noted;
- (i) the minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting held on 12th December 2018 be noted.

FC18/177 New Play Equipment Working Group

Cllr. B. Thorogood had withdrawn from the working group, volunteers were required.

RESOLVED that the item be considered at the Environment Committee meeting on 4th February 2019.

FC18/178 General Power of Competence

The Parish Council were eligible to use the General Power of Competence; members wanted further information on the power before making the appropriate resolution.

RESOLVED that the Clerk provide further information and the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr. B. O'Shea left the meeting, 9.21pm

Cllr. M. Anderson left the meeting, 9.21pm

FC18/179 Defibrillator

Cllr. M. Anderson returned to the meeting, 9.22pm

The Clerk continued to liaise with Sainsburys regarding the power connection to the defibrillator however the connection had still not taken place. It was noted that the connection was for the light in the unit and not for the defibrillator itself. Consideration was given to relocating the unit to the Old Fire Station, though it was felt that it should remain in Spa Road.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the defibrillator is not moved to the Old Fire Station;
- (b) the Co-op be approached to enquire whether they would be willing to provide a power source if the unit was moved to their building.

FC18/180 Laburnham Road Play Space

A complaint had been received regarding residents walking their dogs in the play area and not clearing up any dog mess. It was noted that signage was currently in place prohibiting dogs.

RESOLVED that an item be included in the newsletter advising that dogs are prohibited in the play areas.

FC18/181 Training

An allotments course was being run on 6th February however no one was able to attend due to transport issues.

FC18/182 Reports from outside organisations

- (a) Hockley and Hawkwell 55+ Older Persons Social Centre – Cllr. S. Martin
A meeting was being held the following week.
- (b) Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils – Cllr. R. Martin and Cllr. B. Hazlewood
A report was received. It was noted that a Local Community Meeting was held on 17th January 2019 with the Police. Due to low attendance, the Police were planning to move to online chats.

FC18/183 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 18th March 2019.

The meeting was closed at 9.33pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman