



Hockley Parish Council

Minutes of the Hockley Parish Council Meeting. Held at The Old Fire Station, at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 15th August 2016.

ITEM	SUBJECT
<p>*Before the meeting started Kay Abbey, Committee Treasurer, accepted a cheque for £2,122 on behalf of the Hockley Public Hall. The money is by way of a grant from Hockley Parish Council to assist with maintenance costs.</p>	
16/165	<p>Welcome.</p>
16/166	<p>Members Attending. Chairman: Cllr R Martin Present: Cllrs Anderson, Boxall, Chelmsford M Carter, T Carter, Gleadall, Hazlewood, James, Maddocks, S Martin, Meacham, O'Shea. Also present: The Clerk, Cllr Mike Steptoe, Deputy Leader Rochford District Council, one member of the public. Apologies Cllrs Vingoe, Randall. Resolved. Valid apologies were accepted from two councillors. Proposed Cllr R Martin seconded Cllr Anderson.</p>
16/167	<p>Declaration of Interests. Cllrs Hazlewood and M Carter declared an interest in Agenda Item 16/177 as members of Rochford District Council.</p>
16/168	<p>To Confirm the Minutes of Council meeting held 18th July 2016 and note Resolutions. Resolved. The minutes of full council on 18th July 2016 are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr R Martin seconded Cllr James.</p>
16/169	<p>Public participation. One member of the public attended who noted that there would be full consultation by Essex County Council about the proposed changes to the bus routes.</p>
16/170	<p>Ward and County Councillors may address the members. County Cllr Maddocks (Rayleigh North) advised the parish council that he received several requests for information about County Council matters when attending the Hockley village market, and suggested that a regular surgery should be incorporated into the event. The Councillors were cautiously interested in the idea, but suggested that the honour should go to the County Councillor for Hockley. Cllr Maddocks would approach Cllr Hoy County Councillor for Hockley & Hullbridge to ensure that he was agreeable to Cllr Maddocks holding a surgery in Hockley. Parish Councillors regularly attend the market and are available to speak with residents on parish matters. Deputy Leader of Rochford District Council, Cllr Mike Steptoe was invited to address members. He explained that he is responsible for strategic partnership, the flood forum and the parking partnership. Changes at director level for RDC were reported.</p>

	<p>The District Council Standards Committee is interested in training and seeks information about what training is required by the Parish Councillors. It was pointed-out that the timing for training did not fit with councillor’s availability and the District Council was asked to find alternative ways of delivering the service. Parish councillors also considered that the cost was prohibitive and asked if an alternative approach could be considered whereby the training would be delivered at the Parish Hall.</p> <p>On the subject of costs, Cllr Steptoe explained that the planning training is run specifically for the parishes so a fee has to be charged to cover the cost of officer time.</p> <p>On the matter of partnerships, the District Council would like to encourage closer working relationships around public facilities such as play areas, car parks and toilets. The Parish is not expected to fund work out of the precept, but by using their abilities to access other funding streams. The Parish Councillors considered that there is a wider opportunity to improve the working relationship between the Parish and District; Cllr Steptoe agreed and extended an offer to meet again to explore options. Devolution is being considered, and there may be opportunities to receive assets from County or District.</p> <p>Parish summits – attendance has fallen and alternative formats and contents will be explored.</p> <p>The District Council has set-up an investment board that will consider projects and establish an arms-length trading company to manage functions like grounds maintenance. Such companies will be profit-making entities and may be formed to deliver services or manage assets.</p>
<p>16/171</p>	<p>To consider correspondence received</p> <p>Two approaches have been made from residents asking for support to start new art classes at the Parish Hall. The Hall Manager has responded to both with information about the facilities available</p> <p>The Council was advised of the RCCE Neighbourhood Plan Event at Feering on 17th August.</p> <p>A letter of complaint has been received about the standard of verge maintenance on the B1013. The complainant was advised of the steps taken to get Highways maintenance work done and the subsequent agreement for the Parish Council to undertake the work.</p>
<p>16/172</p>	<p>Clerk’s report.</p> <p>Update on highways vegetation clearance.</p> <p>Cllr O’Shea will attend a site visit w/c 18th August to advise on the most important works required at the B1013. The path under the railway bridge has been cleared and weed killer applied.</p> <p>Works at Plumberow Avenue.</p> <p>Contractors have been found willing to undertake the fence gate repairs; the quotes will be collated for consideration.</p> <p>Works at Marylands Nature reserve.</p> <p>The contractor has sourced the deeper mesh required to protect the gravel against flood damage and is onsite this week. Once the new path is in place, the contractor will refurbish the existing path, and reseal the kissing gate. The Clerk will be meeting with a representative of Essex County Council to consider proposed flood management works and the effect on the reserve.</p>

	<p>Update on parish boundary signage. The sign and gateway have been ordered and will be installed by the Rangers without further reference to Highways</p> <p>.</p> <p>Approach from Hullbridge about the circular walk. Cllr Hazlewood has been asked if the joint project between Hullbridge and Hockley on the centenary walk can be restarted.</p>
16/173	<p>Consultations.</p> <p>The Local bus network review was noted. Councillors will reply as individuals and Cllr James as the Transport representative will investigate on behalf of the council collectively.</p>
16/174	<p>To note training undertaken in the previous month and receive reports.</p> <p>There have been two requests for attendance at EALC courses; Administration Assistant to attend the personnel training course Cllr Meacham to attend the Chairman's training course. Both are approved.</p> <p>There were no attendees at the RDC Code of Conduct training on 21st July.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that the Budgets & Precept Training held 8th August was well received and Cllr Maddocks suggested that the training is repeated as part of the budgeting process.</p> <p>Cllr R Martin to ascertain what other local training is available for parishes from EALC.</p>
16/175	<p>To note the minutes and resolutions from Resources and Procedures Committee meeting on 25th July 2016. The minutes were noted</p> <p>To note minutes and resolutions of Personnel Subcommittee. No meeting this month</p>
16/176	<p>To note the minutes and resolutions from Environmental Committee meeting of 1st August 2016. The minutes were noted.</p>
16/177	<p>To consider countersigning the contract for maintenance of parish open spaces, following the site meeting and review of works undertaken.</p> <p>Motion. The Council authorises the Clerk to sign the contract for maintenance of parish open spaces without amendment and as it was published on Contract Finder. Proposed Cllr R Martin Seconded Cllr Hazlewood. Five councillors in favour seven against and one abstention.</p> <p>The motion failed and the contract will not be signed until there is better evidence that the contractor demonstrates compliance to the published terms. Members requested that, following a visit from the RDC Environmental Officer to agree the remedial work required, the Clerk should settle the outstanding invoices.</p>

16/178	<p>To consider the request for a virement from reserve to fund the legal fees for works to Parish Pavement.</p> <p>Cllr Hazlewood requested a recorded vote.</p> <p>Resolved. The council will authorise a virement of £1,500 from reserve to fund the legal fees and licences for remedial work to the land at Parish Pavement. The reserve will not be replaced.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr R Martin seconded Cllr Maddocks. In favour; Cllrs Anderson, Boxall, Chelmsford M Carter, T Carter, Gleadall, James, and Meacham.</p> <p>Against; Cllr Hazlewood. Abstained; Cllrs S Martin & B O’Shea. The motion was carried.</p>
16/179	<p>To consider the request for a virement from reserve to fund the refurbishment of soft play surfaces at Laburnum Avenue Play area.</p> <p>Resolved. The council will authorise a virement of £10,000 from reserve to fund the renewal of all the soft play surfaces in Laburnum Grove play area. The reserve will not be replaced.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr R Martin Seconded Cllr Maddocks and carried unanimously.</p>
16/180	<p>To note the minutes and resolutions from Planning and Local Development Committee meeting of 15th August.</p> <p>The minutes were noted.</p>
16/181	<p>To note the minutes and resolutions from Communities Committee.</p> <p>No meeting this month.</p> <p>To note the minutes and resolutions from the Festive Lights Subcommittee and receive a report on the postponement of the street event.</p> <p>Cllr R Martin reported that the subcommittee had encountered some serious last minute safety challenges with the street event. Although the Council may be able to resolve some of the issues, there was insufficient time to safely manage the late changes with the resources available. Rather than compromise public safety or scale the event down, the Council has taken the decision to postpone the Street Event for this year. The council will still put the festive lights up and the children’s competition will be held at the Parish Hall as usual. It is expected that the event will return in 2017. Additional support has been promised from within the community which is much appreciated.</p>
16/182	<p>To note reports from delegates to other organisations.</p> <p>Delegate Report received from Hockley Chamber of Trade and Commerce.</p>
16/183	<p>Items for next agenda.</p> <p>Speed cameras.</p> <p>Feedback from Neighbourhood Planning Meeting.</p>
16/184	<p>Date of next meeting – 19th September 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting closed 9.24</p>