



Hullbridge Parish Council

Full Council

Held on Monday 15th January 2024

7.30 pm

The Windermere Centre, Windermere Avenue, Hullbridge, SS5 6JR

Members present: Cllr Angelina Marriott (Chairman); Cllr C. Agius (Vice Chairman);
Cllr David Elwell; Cllr I. Kenlin, Cllr Steve Cooper; Cllr P. White; Cllr K. O'Brien,
Cllr J. O'Brien, Cllr D. Flack, Cllr H. Gilbert, Cllr K. Charters, Cllr S. Walsh, Cllr S. Naish.
Staff present: Mrs Nicola Harding (Clerk)

Councillor D. Efde Rochford Parish Council / Rochford District Council
2 Members of the public were also present.

Minutes

122/01/24 Apologies for Absence

122.1/01/24 – No Apologies

123/01/24 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

123.1/01/24 – None.

124/01/24. Approval of Minutes

124.1/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *agreed* that the Minutes were a true record of the Meeting of the Council dated **Monday 11th December 2023**.

125/01/24. Minutes of Committees

125.1/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *received* and *noted* the minutes of the following Committees:

- Planning and Infrastructure 10th January 2024 - DRAFT
- Finance Policy & Appointments 10th January 2024 - DRAFT

125.2/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *noted* the upcoming Committee Meetings:

- Planning and Infrastructure 31st January 2024 7pm
 - General Purposes 31st January 2024 7.30pm
- Councillors *noted* the Environment and Open Spaces Meeting on 14th February has been cancelled with the next Environment Meeting being 10th April 2024.

125.3/01/24 RESOLVED - Councillors *voted* to fill the vacancies on the following committees.

- Planning and Infrastructure – Cllr S. Walsh – Clerk to **ACTION**.
- Environment and Open Spaces – Cllr P. White – Clerk to **ACTION**.
- Events and Leisure – Cllr S. Walsh and Cllr S. Naish – Clerk to **ACTION**.

126/01/24 Public Participation

126.1/01/24 – A member of the public raised concerns over the possible dangers regarding residents and visitors feeding the wildlife in Kendal Park, and asked the



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Council to consider signage to deter this. This will be discussed at a future Environment and Open Spaces Committee Meeting. Clerk to **ACTION**.

Councillor Charters arrived at 19.37hrs

127/01/24 District and County Council

127.1/01/24 – None present, no report. The Council agreed that's its concern and disappointment over the lack of District and County support at Parish Meetings should be minuted. The Chair *advised* she will be attending the upcoming District Council Planning Policy Meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

128/01/24 Chairmans / Clerks Reports

128.1/01/24 – The Chair advised those present she will be attending the Holocaust Memorial on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk requested all Councillors have their Gov email set up and thanked all Councillors for a successful Christmas Event. The clerk requested ideas to be forwarded to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Hullbridge Parish Council which is officially dated 26th February 2024 but will be celebrated during the new civic year.

129/01/24 Finance

129.1/01/24 RESOLVED - Councillors *viewed* and *agreed* the payments to be made in January and *agreed* the bank statements, bank reconciliations and trial balance for December and *agreed* the Clerk has approval to pay any accounts due before the next meeting.

129.2/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *viewed, discussed, and agreed* the DRAFT 2024/2025 budget with a precept demand of £237,172. Councillors *noted* the 2024/25 tax base figure for Hullbridge Parish Council is £2594.10. Councillors *agreed* the Clerk has permission to submit this to Rochford District Council. Clerk to **ACTION**.

129.3/01/24 RESOLVED - Councillors *received* the quarterly financial breakdown.

129.4/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *discussed* the UKSPF Funding and *noted* the quote for street furniture compiled by the office will be forwarded to Councillor Hoy as requested. Councillors *agreed* that Cllr Agius would be the UKSPF representative for the Parish Council. Clerk to **ACTION**.

129.5/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *agreed* the Nationwide Account be closed with funds of £25177.16, plus additional interest be transferred to the new CCLA account as per Full Council decision **78.3/10/23**. Clerk to **ACTION**.

130/01/24 Security Patrols

130.1/01/24 RESOLVED - Councillors *viewed* the monthly reports, no issues were raised.

131/01/24 Rochford District Council Ranger Service

131.1/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *agreed* to postpone a decision on this Agenda item until more information is forthcoming from Rochford District Council.

132/01/24 Kendal Park/Rose Garden/Pooles Lane Car Park/ Recreation Ground

132.1/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *received* a verbal update on

- The replacement bridge in Kendal Park.
- The barrier for Pooles Lane Car Park.



- Pooles Lane Recreation Ground – The Clerk to contact Rochford District Council for an update. Clerk to **ACTION**.

133/01/24 Hullbridge Library

133.1/01/24 RESOLVED – The Chair read aloud the letter sent to Essex County Council regarding Library Opening times to those present. Councillors *discussed* and *agreed* to escalate this to the relevant Cabinet Minister for a response. Cllr Cooper requested information on the 2024/25 budget for Essex Libraries. Clerk to contact Cllr Hoy for this information. Clerk to **ACTION**.

134/01/24 Road Repair Issues Essex County Council

134.1/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillor Elwell gave an overview of his report on unadopted roads in Hullbridge. Councillors *agreed* he should re-submit his report to all Councillors for comment and that Councillor Agius would investigate the appropriate Cabinet Minister to send this to. Cllr Elwell and Cllr Agius to **ACTION**. Councillor White asked if there was any funding that could be accessed to upgrade unadopted roads. Clerk to **ACTION**.

135/01/24 Policies/Procedures/ Risk Assessments

135.1/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors *reviewed* and *agreed* the following policies and procedures:

- Standing Orders 21-29
- Housing Policy and Vision statement
- Accident and Emergencies – Clerk to **ACTION**.

Councillor Elwell raised concerns over the need for a cyber security emergency procedure for the village. The Clerk advised that she would investigate this. Clerk to **ACTION**.

136/01/24 Representatives on Outside Bodies

136.1/01/24

- a) **Hullbridge Community Association** (Cllrs D Flack / Mrs. J O'Brien)
No Report
- b) **Windermere Centre** - (Cllrs Ms A. Marriott) No Report
- c) **Rochford Hundred Assoc. of Local Councils** (Cllrs Miss A Marriott/ C.Agius /Clerk) Next Meeting 18th January 2024.
- d) **Hullbridge Library** (Cllr J. O'Brien) - A verbal report was given on the Library's Christmas Event. Councillor Kevin O'Brien suggested a Library led petition could assist with the Library having increased opening hours and Councillors *agreed* the Parish would support. Councillor Jane O'Brien will liaise with the Library to relay this information and report back to Council. Cllr J. O'Brien to **ACTION**.
- e) **Essex Coastal Forum** (Cllrs. P White / D Flack). – Cllr Flack gave a verbal report on items discussed at the recent meeting, including
 - Pollution in the Crouch
 - Sea wall obstructions.Councillor Flack confirmed that he is now the Chair of a sub-committee to discuss these issues and will report back to Full Council. As discussed at the Planning Committee, Councillor Flack will also draft letters to both the Environment Agency and Anglian Water for submission to the office prior to sending. Councillor Flack to **ACTION**.
- f) **Riverside Primary School** (Cllrs Miss A. Marriott, C. Agius) – Councillor Agius informed those present the school had been rated as GOOD in the recent OFSTED review and reaffirmed his commitment to



future engagement on behalf of the Council with both the PTA and school council.

- g) **Police Liaison** (Cllr D. Elwell) – Cllr Elwell will attend the next meeting to be held Wednesday 17th January 2024 10-11am at the Parish Office.
- h) **Parish Councillors** – Councillor Charters raised concerns over the new playground facilities at High Elms. The playground is aimed at older children and is not accessible for babies or children with additional needs and is experiencing significant delays in being established. There was also concern about the MUGA court now not being provided by the District Council from S106 monies. A robust discussion was had as to how the Parish could help to support residents with addressing these issues. It was *agreed* that residents should contact the District Councillors for Hullbridge with their concerns and that the Parish Office would also forward emails on their behalf and look into funding sources that might help support.

Councillor Efde then spoke to the Council on matters raised during the meeting. He expressed surprise at the current lack of support from Rochford District Councillors at Parish Council Meetings. He advised that;

- The Parish Council should submit their Housing Policy and Vision Statement to Rochford District Council Planning Policy Committee. Cllr Marriott to **ACTION**.
- He addressed Councillor Coopers' question regarding funding for Essex Libraries , stating they were fully funded for the next financial year.
- Petitions were a useful tool to implement change and that 750 signatures would result in a discussion at committee level in Rochford District Council and over 2000 signatures would trigger a Full Council discussion.
- UKSPF funding source could be used for the playground. Clerk will contact Councillor Hoy regarding this. Clerk to **ACTION**.

The Chair gave thanks on behalf of the whole Council to Councillor Efde for his attendance and input at the meeting.

137/01/24 Items to be added onto the next Agenda and Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

137.1/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors were *advised* to forward any items for the next Agenda to the Clerk.

137.2/01/24 RESOLVED – Councillors agreed that the next Council meeting will be on **Monday 12th February 2024 19.30** at the Windermere Centre.

Meeting closed 20.30hrs
Nicola Harding Clerk to the Council

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____

IF YOU WOULD LIKE LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THESE MINUTES PLEASE CONTACT THE
PARISH CLERK



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