GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29th January 2025, in the Parish Council Offices, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering, SS3 0HH, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: - Councillors L. Blunden, D. Efde, R. Efde (Chair), T. Goodwin, P. Hitchman and B. Wilkins.

In attendance: - S. Hyatt (Parish Clerk)

1. **The Chairman to declare the meeting open.**

 Meeting declared open at 7.30pm.

**2. To receive apologies for absence.**

 Councillors Bates and Rodger. Councillor Porter apologies seen after Meeting.

**3. To receive declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council’s Code of**

 **Conduct and with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

 Councillors R. Efde, D. Efde and Wilkins – Memorial Hall, D. Efde – District

 Councillor, P Hitchman – Friends of Wakering Common, allotment tenant and

 Parish Council burial ground Exclusive Right of Burial holder.

 **4. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting**

 **held on 27th November 2024.**

*Resolved* that the minutes be approved.

 **5. Financial Matters**

 a**.** To approve Payment Schedules for Nov/Dec 2024.*Carried*

 b. To approve Receipt Schedules for Nov/Dec 2024. *Carried*

 c. To approve the Financial Statement for the 9 months to 31st December 2024.

 *Carried*

**6.** **To receive the Chairman’s report.**

 No report.

**7.**  **To agree the Finance Committee Members recommendation regarding the**

 **Budget for the financial year 2025/26.**

*Resolved* that the budget be approved.

**8.** **To agree the Finance Committee Members recommendation regarding the**

 **Precept for the financial year 2025/26.**

*Resolved* that the recommendation be approved and that there be a 3% rise in

 the Band D rate resulting in a precept of £89,426.92. The new Band D rate to be

 £39.74 well below national average of £85.89 for the previous financial year.

**9.** **To consider whether to allow music in the Parish Council burial ground.**

Councillor Hitchman left the Meeting at 19:46

  *Resolved* that music be allowed during the funeral service and whilst the coffin is

 lowered. Funeral directors to provide proof of licence if required by the Clerk.

 Maximum of five band members allowed to play, including bagpipers. Any music

 must be respectful of place and occasion and must not offend public decency.

 Clerk to check original planning application to ensure no condition against above.

Councillor Hitchman rejoined at 19:53.

**10.** **To consider Co-option applications.**

 No response from eligible applicants.

**11. To receive reports from outside bodies:**

* **Rochford 100** – Report noted

**12.** **At the Chairman’s discretion the exchange of relevant Council**

 **information.**

* Public rights of way update.
* Bus shelter update.
* Clerk granted funding for advised projects from UK Prosperity Fund.
* Clerk – North Street streetlighting update.

**13. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillors on**

 **County and District Council matters only (5 minutes each at Chair’s**

 **discretion).**

 Councillor Efde:

* Devolution to be discussed at RDC 11th February.
* RDC precept 2.59% increase.
* RDC budget to be set 18 February.
* RDC council reception now open at Rochford library.
* Planning and Development Committee updates re Star Lane & 58 High Street.

 County Councillor Steptoe:

* Upcoming works at Crouchmans Avenue.
* ECC rate increase likely to be 3.95%
* Gulley cover misaligned near the Cedars.
* Approximately £2500 local funding available.
* Devolution.

**14. Time allowing the meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners**

**of Great Wakering to address the Council only once in respect of**

**business itemised on the agenda (3 minutes each at Chairman’s**

 **discretion).**

None.

 **15. Exclusion of the Press and Public.**

 **To agree that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the**

 **remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in**

 **paragraph 3 and 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act**

 **1972 would be disclosed.**

*Resolved* that the public be excluded.

**16. To agree the award of a combined tender for maintenance of the Parish**

 **Council Burial Ground and Parish Council Office surrounds and**

 **footpath.**

*Resolved* that the contract be awarded to Maxus Services Ltd.

Meeting Closed 8.20pm

Next Meeting 26th March 2025