

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 15th May 2013
at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall**

PRESENT:

Cllr. G. Wilson (Chairman)

Cllrs Connolly, Price, Robbins, (A) Wilson, Adams & Hale

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Lewendon, Paton, Perkins, Fulford & Anstey

Miss D Vine, Asst Town Clerk

Ruth Croker, Footpaths Officer

1. To Elect a Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Wilson (A) that Cllr Wilson (G) be elected as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the forthcoming year.

2. To Elect a Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Wilson (G) and seconded by Cllr Connolly that Cllr Wilson (A) be elected as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the forthcoming year.

3. To receive apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

4. To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2013 and report any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr (A) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Price that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2013 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

To Report on Matters relating to the Town Hall

The Asst Clerk confirmed that M Castle Builders were hoping to commence work on the soakaway at the rear of the building within the next two weeks, and scaffolding was being ordered with a view to commencing work on the Clock Tower and repairs to the front of the building.

6. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public

None received.

7. To report on Matters concerning St Mary's Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

No matters to report.

8. To report on any Matter relating to the Town Hall

Replacement White Goods for the Kitchen

Cllr Wilson advised that costings had been obtained to purchase a small freezer unit to place on top of the existing fridge which would need to be moved to accommodate this. The freezer unit could be used by Fordingbridge Entertainments Society for storage of ice creams for sale at the film screenings. A commercial dishwasher could then be purchased which would fit in the vacant fridge space. The Fordingbridge Entertainments Society have indicated a willingness to make a donation towards the

costs. Cllr Adams will also obtain a quotation for the commercial dishwasher, ensuring spares can be readily obtained.

9. To Report on any matters concerning Footpaths

Update on Church Footpath

The Asst Clerk reported that both District Councillors and the County Councillor had been approached to see what grant funding could be made available and a response was awaited.

HCC New Forest Community Routes consultation

Members had been sent a copy of a letter from Hampshire County Council together with a working draft of a plan which showed potential connecting routes from Fordingbridge to other parishes/areas. A Working Group had been set up to identify a coherent network of routes for walkers, cyclists and horseriders which would be well maintained and easy to use with the objective of giving those with less knowledge of the area the chance to explore the area without using a car. Ruth Croker, Footpaths Officer reported that a review had been going on for some time and she understood that some government money could be used for areas outside the National Park. Members looked at the potential connecting routes identified and Ruth asked them to consider whether these identified the best way of walking, cycling etc between settlements. Members agreed that the area marked taking a route north of Burgate via the Avon Valley Path onto Woodgreen and Hale showed the best way. Ruth asked Members whether they wished to mark up routes from Fordingbridge to the south. Cllr Connolly advised that he would like to see Bicton included. It was agreed that Cllr Wilson (G) would meet with Ruth to mark up further routes and return a completed map to the NPA as requested by the 24th May 2014. Members thanked Ruth for her advice.

10. To report on any matters concerning Highways

Members reported that they had noted white line painting taking place in various parts of the town. Cllr Connolly advised that potholes in Parsonage Park Drive had been repaired.

11. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

Cllr Wilson (G) advised that the Table Top Sale held on the 11th May 2013 had made the sum of £226.50 towards the cost of the toilet facility at the Allotments. Cllr Connolly had spoken to members of the Allotment Committee about the possibility of providing a permanent toilet facility.

Allocation of Allotments

Cllr Wilson (G) advised Members that following a misunderstanding an offer had been made to the holder of Plot 32 to consider him for a larger plot should one become available. The holder had subsequently asked to be considered for Plot 32B if it became available, giving him a larger Plot. It was now likely that Plot 32B would be available, however due to the length of the waiting list of more than 12 people it has been the practice for some time to only allocate half plots and any full plots which were given up were subsequently halved. Cllr Wilson (G) asked members to consider whether they wished to allow Plot 32 to become a whole Plot, mindful of the length of the waiting list, and whether an additional clause should be added to the Rules and Regulations to reflect this.

After discussion it was agreed that it would be unfair to allocate a full plot to a holder when the current practice was to offer smaller plots and there is a long waiting list. Cllr Connolly advised that despite enquiries it was not possible to acquire any further land for allotments.

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Wilson (A) that an additional Clause is added to the Rules and Regulations which reads.

Existing whole plots shall be divided into two smaller plots when current holder gives up the plot, requests a smaller plot, or it is taken back by the Council under Clause 2 of these Rules and regulations.

All in favour, Carried.

12. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

13. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business

Cllr Wilson (A) sought clarification regarding noticeboard ownership in the car park, and what type of notices could be displayed as the boards were often overcrowded. It was confirmed that both boards belong to the Town Council and as such permission is required to display notices which should not be of a commercial nature. Cllr Wilson (A) advised that there seemed to be some ambiguity regarding this but it was agreed that if the event advertised benefited the residents of Fordingbridge, then it was deemed to be acceptable. Cllr Wilson (G) advised that she checked the boards each week and removed any unsuitable advertising.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as the 17th July 2013

The meeting ended at 08.00pm