

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 16th July
2014 at 7.05pm in the Town Hall**

Following a site visit to the new Refreshment Kiosk at the Recreation Ground.

PRESENT:

Cllr. G. Wilson (Chairman)
Cllrs Hale, (A) Wilson, Adams & Connolly

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Ruth Croker. Footpath Officer
5 Members of the public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr Price

2. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st May 2014 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Hale and seconded by Cllr Connolly and **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st May 2014 be signed as a true record.

No matters arising

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

Footpath no 78b – Mr Colin Burt requested that the Minutes of the 21st May 2014 be amended to incorporate an omission –

Minute No 4: *Cllr Connolly suggested that the footpath should be closed as it was dangerous and that a public meeting should be held to discuss the situation and the relocation of the path.* Members AGREED that the minutes should be amended to incorporate this change in the penultimate paragraph of Minute No. 4.

A discussion then took place regarding the current situation with the footpath – Cllr Connolly advised the meeting that the path is designated as a Right of Way rather than a footpath and Ruth Croker confirmed that Rights of Way have no real detailed specification. If the path is closed this would give the landowners what they want – a bill is to go to Parliament to make it easier to have rights of way closed.

Ruth Croker confirmed that Hampshire County Council have no obligation to improve the surface of the path and despite the footpath having been temporarily closed, Hampshire CC will not carry out any works but are in negotiation with the landowner to improve the surface and also the landowners interpretation of the official line of the designated path - HCC could serve an order on the landowner to position the path on the correct line. The situation regarding this footpath has needed a huge resource from HCC and with budgets cuts cannot be sustained. Ms Croker confirmed that she is committed to resolving this issue and in ensuring that the right of way is retained.

Mr Burt confirmed that he would write directly to Hampshire County Council.

Members of the Public and Ruth Croker left the meeting.

5. To report on matters concerning St Mary's Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

No concerns regarding St Mary's Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery. Query raised regarding the Urn found at Stuckton Road – Clerk to chase the transfer of the Urn to Bournemouth University.

6. To report on any matters relating to the Town Hall

Refurbishment/Redecoration – Works to start the following day for redecoration works to make good weather damage. Members requested that this should be a making good of these areas only and not a complete redecoration.

First aid kit - located in high cupboard in Kitchen out of reach to most. Members AGREED that this should be re-located to a lower area which could be access by all users of the Town Hall.

7. To report on any matters concerning Footpaths

Item dealt with under Agenda Item 4

8. To report on any matters concerning Highways

No highway matters to report.

9. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

The Chairman reported that together with the Mayor, she had judged the allotments for the annual competition – the allotments have recovered well after the flooding of last winter and there were very high standards of care displayed. The results of the competition will be announced in September

New pumps have been supplied and installed at the Allotments. It was again discussed whether it would be cost-effective to provide a permanent toilet at the allotments to replace the Portable toilet hired each summer. Town Clerk to investigate costs and possible grants available.

10. To report on matters concerning the information office

Town Clerk to chase up action on provision of lockable cash drawer & portable ramp for disabled access.

11. To agree revised Terms of Reference for General Purposes Committee incorporating Disability Access Sub-Committee

Cllr A Wilson proposed and Cllr Adams seconded and it was **RESOLVED**: that the Terms of Reference be accepted. These have already been presented to General Council.

12. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported on an email received from Mr I Cole regarding on-street parking in the town and particularly the High Street. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Coles concerns have been passed to both New Forest DC with responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions and Hampshire CC as highways authority – a request has been made for increased patrols on the High Street and appropriate enforcement action when necessary.

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

Nothing to report from the Clerk.

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Fordingbridge Club – it was noted that the Fordingbridge Club has been sold but at present the purchaser is unknown.

Moto Guzzi event August Bank Holiday weekend - Cllr Connolly reported that the Club are seeking volunteers to be on duty at Round Hills Car park as this will be closed off during the Moto Guzzi event and made a plea for volunteers.

15. To note the date of the next meeting as 17th September 2014

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Chairman
17.09.14