

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 18th
September 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall**

PRESENT:

Cllr. G. Wilson (Chairman)
Cllrs (A) Wilson & Price & Buchanan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Lewendon, Fulford & Anstey
Miss D Vine, Asst Town Clerk

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Cllrs Connolly, Hale & Adams.

Cllr (G) Wilson advised that the proposed site visit to Stuckton Road and Fry's Field allotments had been cancelled due to the number of apologies received and was disappointed that this had not been able to take place as notice had been given and it was only once a year. It was hoped that a separate site visit could be arranged convenient to all.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

None received

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2013 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr (A) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Price that the Minutes held on the 17th July 2013 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public

No matters raised.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Cleaning

Cllr (G) Wilson advised that she had been extremely disappointed in the standard of cleanliness of the Town Hall following a private party and a public function held over one weekend. It was noted that the Clerk had spoken to the Caretaker in respect of this.

Replacement white goods for the kitchen and water boiler

The Fordingbridge Entertainment's Committee had agreed that they would pay 50% towards the cost of a dishwasher and the cheque was awaited. The RFO had confirmed that there were sufficient funds in the existing budget to meet the cost of the other 50%. It had been further agreed that the cost of a permanent water boiler should be met by the Entertainment's Committee if they wished to purchase one, however any request to purchase would need to be agreed by the Committee.

From the floor Cllr Buchanan asked whether costings had been done with regard to useage for detergent and whether an increased cost should be made for hire of the

hall if the hirer wished to use the dishwasher. Cllr (G) Wilson advised that this would be taken into account when determining hire costs, but it was important to provide such a facility to attract hirers. Cllr Price asked if attendance had been affected since the last increase in hire charges. The Asst Clerk advised that attendance had remained about the same.

Disabled Toilet Upgrade

Following a meeting of the Disabled Access Committee held on the 4th September 2013 it was noted that the Disabled Toilet in the Town Hall was not fit for purpose. Cllr (G) Wilson asked Cllr Fulford, as Chairman of the Disabled Access Committee to comment on this as the matter had also been raised by New Forest Access for All. Cllr Fulford outlined the requirements needed to bring the toilet up to a suitable standard but believed that any costing should be carried out by the Disabled Access Committee and then a recommendation made to Finance & Policy, and that the cost should not come from the General Purpose budget. Cllr (G) Wilson believed that as the toilet was in the Town Hall, the General Purposes Committee had a responsibility to discuss the matter and refer it back to the Disabled Access Committee. It was AGREED that this should be discussed at the next Disabled Access Committee.

It was acknowledged that any alarm fitted in the toilet should be audible in the hall.

New Speakers

Cllr (G) Wilson advised that Peter Elbro from Moving Images had asked if he could attend the next meeting to give a short presentation concerning his intention to provide new speakers for the hall which he would fund. Members agreed that this would be acceptable.

7. To report on any matters concerning footpaths

Riverside Development Signage

Two "To the River" signs recently erected by Fordingbridge Town Council had been removed by persons unknown.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting

Two illegal signs had been placed at the Riverside development, stating that it was Private Property, one at the entrance to the development and one on the footpath area. Cllr (G) Wilson re-iterated the ongoing problems associated with Riverside Place and the refusal of some residents to accept that there is a public footpath and open space. It was also noted that illegal "No Fishing" signs had been erected. The Clerk to ask for all these signs to be removed.

Update on Church Footpath

Information required by the PCC concerning future upkeep of the proposed path and warranty on contractor's work had been supplied by the Asst Clerk for a PCC meeting to be held on the 12th September 2013. A response was awaited.

8. To report on any matters concerning Highways

Replacement Bus Shelter Seat

Members considered a quotation received from Queensbury Shelters Ltd for the replacement of the bus shelter seat which had been vandalised and subsequently removed for safety. There is a budget of £500 and the total cost of replacement would be either £870, £570 or £540 depending on the option chosen. Members were divided in opinion as to whether the seat should be replaced. It was suggested that

the Council insurers be contacted to see if the cost of repair could be met. It was AGREED that the Asst Clerk should make enquiries.

9. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

Cllr (G) Wilson advised that an Allotment Committee meeting was to be held on Thursday 19th September 2013 with the AGM on Thursday 3rd October 2013.

A consultation document relating to car parking at a proposed allotment scheme at Marl Lane had been circulated to Members for information. It was AGREED that this was a Planning matter and would be included on the agenda for discussion at the next Planning Meeting on the 9th October 2013.

10. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report

12. To note the date of the next meeting as 23rd October 2013

The meeting ended at 08.35pm