

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 25th September 2012
at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Anstey & Lewendon
Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

Cllr Wilson apologised that the site visit to Fry's Field allotments and Stuckton Road Cemetery had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were apologies from Cllr Shering.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2012 and report any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th July 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters arising

Loft Ladder – a quote has been request from Attic Rooms Ltd of Christchurch who visited on Friday 21st September.

Memorial Bungalow – Mike Castle builders will start the work this month.

Cllr Anstey entered the meeting.

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

Grave regulations – a letter of complaint had been received concerning the flouting of grave regulations on two recent graves. Letters have been sent to the families concerned and they have been requested to remove the offending objects (bird feeders etc. edging and a built up trough). The complainant has also been written to and advised of the steps taken by the Town Council.

St Mary's Church footpath – The Clerk advised that Winchester Diocese had stipulated York stone should be used to match the existing path up to the main church door. One quote had been received for £8500. Two further companies had been approached for quotes. The Clerk had been told that York stone was not sensible to use for paths as it gets slippery and can ice over in winter. The main path was made of gravestones and only had a little York stone in it.

It was AGREED to request that a representative from the Diocese visit to view the path to discuss alternative material and to wait to receive further quotes until making a decision to go ahead. No budget has been made for this project in the current financial year.

5. To report on matters relating to Council buildings

Stair-lift in the Town Hall – quotes are being sought for a stair-lift up to the Council Chamber. Cllr Anstey reminded members it was important to ensure that spare parts were accessible in the years ahead and that the chair be lockable so could be supervised by the key holder. Cllr Adams suggested that the Council contact other customers to see if they were happy with the product.

6. To report on any matters concerning Footpaths

Footpath between Godshill & Fordingbridge: update on progress – HCC have not yet sent the feasibility study and have been reminded.

Breamore to Charford footpath – this was officially opened on 20th September following work by volunteers from the Fordingbridge & Ringwood Footpath Society, New Forest National Park Authority, Breamore Parish Council and HCC Countryside Service. Cllr Connolly advised he had walked the path which had beautiful views across the river Avon.

7. To report any matters concerning Highways

High Street – Cllr Connolly advised that a dropped kerb outside Timothy's was causing water to go into the shop when heavy rain occurred. The Clerk to report to HCC Highways.

8. To report any matters concerning Allotments

The Chairman reported that alterations had been made to the tenancy agreement to ensure that plots which were handed back were in a tidy condition before being passed on. It was AGREED to include a sentence that the Town Council *reserve the right to charge for clearing an allotment plot if handed back in an untidy condition.*

The barbed wire on the boundary fence will be removed and replaced with smooth wire.

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

No members of the public were present.

10. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

Town Hall extension – it was AGREED to place this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

12. To note the date of the next meeting as the 19th September 2012.

The meeting ended at 8 pm.