

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 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, Fulford, Paton & Perkins  
Ms K Mason, Town Clerk  
Mrs D Vine, Asst. Clerk  
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

**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 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and report any matters arising**

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Hale that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters arising

Loft Ladder – the loft ladder is now in situ and is working.

Memorial Bungalow – Mike Castle Builders will start the work on the loft this month.

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

No members of the public present.

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

St Mary's Church footpath – The Chairman advised that she and the Town Clerk had met with Mr I Newman and Mrs J Dowsett of the PCC on site to discuss the proposed upgrade of the footpath. The footpath will need work to make it usable for wheelchairs and trollies as it is currently gravel. The Town Clerk advised that HCC provide grants for footpaths and it may be a designated as a public footpath following work to the footpath opposite during the 1980's. The Clerk to investigate. Designated footpaths 99 & 97 are close to the Church.

Cllr Price asked if the church were donating to the project? The Clerk to enquire.

Stuckton Rd Cemetery – Cllr Wilson confirmed that some graves had been levelled and planted with grass. The large arrangement on a grave has been moved and other graves have had the edging fences removed.

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

Council Chamber furniture – a quote has been received for two cabinets to hold the Twinning objects, new folding tables and chairs. This will mean that the room can be cleared of furniture if required making it a more flexible space for use by hirers. Currently, the room is only used for Council meetings and the fortnightly Jazz Band rehearsals. The quote will be discussed as part of the budget proposals for next year although there is money available in this year's budget.

Pictures – The two oil paintings by Edgar Downe currently hanging in the Main Hall have been assessed for damage by Collier & Dobson, Fordingbridge. There is damage to both pictures which should be addressed and advice was given that the pictures should be hung in the Council Chamber which is a safer environment (from future damage). They have been valued at a current value of £10k each.

As a Council asset it was decided the decision should be made by the Finance & Policy Committee.

Town Hall extension – Cllr Adams suggested that this was investigated again as an extension at the back of the Hall would allow for the chairs to be moved out giving more space. Cllr (G) Wilson considered that the kitchen needed to be updated and a dishwasher put in. It was AGREED that this will be discussed at a future date.

**7. To report on any matters concerning Footpaths**

Footpath between Godshill & Fordingbridge: update on progress – HCC have been reminded again for news on the feasibility study.

*Cllr Anstey entered the meeting.*

**8. To report any matters concerning Highways**

Nothing to report

**9. To report any matters concerning Allotments**

The Chairman reported that some large plots had been divided into two so the waiting list was starting to reduce.

**10. To discuss budget proposals for 2013/14 and make recommendations to be taken to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on 2nd January 2013.**

The need for prioritising in budget projections was discussed and it was AGREED that the budget for the forthcoming year be discussed at an additional meeting in December when priorities could be set in line with a Forward Plan. The Clerk to advise date of Budget meeting.

**11. To note any items of correspondence**

Nothing to report.

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

Late Night Shopping – the Chairman asked if volunteers could help wrap presents for Santa's Grotto on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 3 pm in the Town Hall.

**13. To note the date of the next meeting as the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.