

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at  
7.30 pm in the Town Hall**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cllrs Lewendon, Paton & Perkins  
Ms K Mason, Town Clerk  
4 members of the public

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

There were apologies from Cllr Adams and Cllr Hale.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest**

There were declarations of interest from:  
Cllr (A) Wilson on agenda item

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 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 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

There were no matters arising.

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

Cllr (A) Wilson, having declared an interest in the next item to be discussed, left the room.

Fordingbridge Badminton Club – representatives of Fordingbridge Badminton Club presented a letter to members requesting a reduction in the hire rate they pay for the Town Hall. They play each Monday evening and currently pay £28.35 which will rise to £30 after 1<sup>st</sup> April.

They have had difficulties in recruiting more members, despite a publicity drive, and have 10 active players. Although there are badminton facilities in the area e.g. Downton, Ringwood and Burgate School (and it would be cheaper to hire a court at Burgate) they favour the Town Hall as they are able to walk to it and it is in the centre of town. They requested a reduction to £22 per session.

Members discussed the request and considered that as it applied to hire rates which had been ratified by Finance & Policy Committee it should be passed to that Committee to make a final decision. It was AGREED to include on the agenda for the Finance & Policy meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr (A) Wilson re-entered the meeting.

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

Those graves requiring to be levelled have been done and re-seeded. However, because of the inclement weather these may need further attention.

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

The following quote has been received from M Castle Builders:  
Clock tower upkeep - £3,552.00  
Decoration & repair to front of building - £4023.00

The scaffolding will be required for both jobs, which will be completed together, and is included in the price.

Members discussed getting further quotes. The clock tower upkeep was something they considered should be awarded to M Castle Builders as they re-built the clock tower in 2011 and it is part of the programme of upkeep recommended every 3 years. As scaffolding will be in place for that job it can also be used for the decoration & repair to the front of the building at the same time. Any other quotes would need to include scaffolding so the cost would necessarily be higher.

It was AGREED to discuss the financial regulations requiring 3 quotes and the application of de minimus provisions at the next Finance & Policy Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Council Chamber chairs – Cllr Connolly considered that the blue chairs purchased are the wrong colour. The Chairman advised he should wait until the refurbishment had been completed as they will fit in with the overall colour scheme.

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

Footpath 97 (by St Mary's Church) – the footpath is still closed due to badger activity and a diversion has been made down Frog Lane.

Footpath from Whaddon to Alderholt – an email has been received from the Hale & Redlynch Transition Group who are considering the feasibility of opening up the old railway line as a shared cycleway/footpath. It was AGREED to ask the group to attend a General Council meeting to discuss their ideas.

Church Footpath – The Clerk advised of the stipulations required by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the procedure necessary for a Faculty which is required for any changes to church property. The Clerk to start the process of applying for grant monies.

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

Members expressed concern that the HCC Highway arrangements currently in place for the repair of roads in the parish. It appears that there is no longer a dedicated gang for the Highways Officer to use who are based in the area. Gangs now work all over Hampshire and jobs are reported centrally to be allocated. This does not seem to be efficient as they can be sent to different parts of the county wasting time travelling. A dedicated gang will also know the area they work with saving time finding places.

It was AGREED to bring the matter up with Cllr Heron at the next General Council meeting.

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

Changes were AGREED to the allotment rules concerning children and dogs on the allotments and the erection of sheds.

Table Top Sale - Allotment holders are to hold a Table Top Sale in the Town Hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May to raise money towards the temporary toilet. They will be selling plants and cakes and other tables can be 'brought' by other organisations for £10 to sell their goods.

Cllr Connolly advised members of a worrying trend whereby County Councils were commandeering allotment land for building of houses. The Clerk to investigate how to protect the allotment plots.

Chairman  
Date

**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 the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013.**

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.