

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2008 AT
7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllr Gill, Chairman; Cllr Brewer, Deputy Chairman; Cllrs Posner, Miller, Richards, Pugh, Hitchcock, Baker, Slater and the clerk. Also Cllrs Distin and Nutley. Plus two representatives from the Chamber of Trade.

Cllr Gill welcomed Cllr Distin and members of the Chamber of Trade and Cllr Nutley to the meeting.

001/08GP Apologies

There were no apologies received.

002/08GP Minutes of the previous meeting

These were signed by the Chairman as a true record. Carried unanimously.

003/08GP Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

004/08GP Parking issues – discussion with Chamber of Trade representatives

Cllr Gill wished to set aside standing orders to allow representatives from the Ashburton Chamber of Trade and Commerce to make comments. Mr Cleave confirmed that regarding the cattle market, there are approximately 12 to 15 members parking there by day and every encouragement was being made to request members of the chamber to take up the parking spaces at the cattle market.

There have been problems experienced, that being that there is a very large gate for members to have to negotiate before they can gain entry to the area. Also, vehicles have been blocking the entrance, which is not helping. The clerk did state that if any vehicle is creating an obstruction the police should be called and they will deal with the offenders accordingly.

Mr Cleave stated that the Chamber of Trade has been pushing for years for parking problems and issues to be resolved but here we are again, still no further on. Mr Cleave felt that the centre of town is being blocked all the time by vehicles and he would welcome double yellow lines being reinstated as that way there is no uncertainty. He would also like to see an area of the car available for a limited time of, perhaps, one hour only parking for shoppers to use. Therefore, creating a short-term stay within the existing car park and this would help the turnover of spaces and shoppers perhaps say 30 cars to be accommodated.

Mr Cleave would also like to see North Street straightened up, especially near the Bay Horse, the large pavement outside of the houses, he felt

could be reduced and therefore allow herringbone parking and even residents' only parking. The clerk commented that large plans were drawn by himself on behalf of the town council to accommodate this type of suggestion but at that time it was objected to, mainly by the residents, and also the Highways were not in favour of cars reversing back on the roads but agreed that perhaps it was now time to revisit this again. Cllr Richards stated he cannot see a reason for refusal for reversing back onto a main highway as on the A38 in Cornwall at Dobwalls, herringbone parking has been there for many years and cars reverse back onto the A38 and there have been no problems experienced with this and he failed to see why the Highways should object.

The clerk stated that he had also enquired at the time about parking in Ireland House, any spare spaces there at that time could be offered by Teignbridge District Council as a parking permit facility, as with the Hall in Eastern Road. Even the car park at the bottom of Dolbeare Road. Cllr Nutley said that he had been in discussions with Teign Housing regarding parking in the Hall car park and there have been complaints from the residents of the hall that people, who are not living in the Hall, are parking in the spaces, it is private, owners' parking.

Lengthy discussions then took place regarding the possibility of taking on areas for parking and perhaps this could be run privately and enquiries could be made if anyone would be interested, a trust or whatever in running a car park. It was also stated by Mr Cleave that he had heard that the compounds down in Chuley Road were up for sale with Stags and perhaps consideration should be given to these areas for parking.

Cllr Gill reinstated standing orders. Cllr Hitchcock commented that, in certain areas, cars are permitted to park on pavements, where there is plenty of width. It was also felt that perhaps the park and ride should be looked into again. As previously, it was offered for during the summer periods only and a restricted time, which was not acceptable. Perhaps, all parties concerned would reconsider.

It was agreed that the clerk would follow up on issues of yellow lines, the compounds, the possibility of herringbone parking in North Street etc. and report back accordingly.

Recommend: Clerk to attend to above

The chairman thanked the two representatives of Ashburton Chamber of Trade and Commerce and they left the meeting accordingly.

005/08GP TDC complaints procedure

Cllr Gill set aside standing orders to allow Cllr Nutley to comment. Cllr Nutley reported on a meeting that he had recently attended and discussions took place regarding one or two complaints received on the way Teignbridge District Council handles certain complaints and generally it was felt that its response is acceptable.

Cllr Gill reinstated standing orders. The clerk stated that if ever he did need to complain he had always found that action was taken in a positive manner. Cllr Baker stated she had to complain about road sweeping in East Street, she received a phone call two weeks later and, in actual fact, the person on the phone had got the details totally wrong, so she did not hold too much confidence with some of the staff at TDC.

006/08GP Street lights

A discussion took place regarding additional street lights and areas identified were:

1. Church Path.
2. Blogishay Lane
3. Love Lane
4. Stapledon Lane.

It was agreed that the clerk would write to Les Pym accordingly.

Cllr Miller asked Cllr Baker why she had told residents that the lights would be switched off at midnight and she confirmed that Mr Pym did tell her that they would, indeed, be switched off. Apparently, this does not appear to be the case now.

Recommend: Clerk to write regarding additional street lamps

007/08GP Street cleaning issues

The clerk confirmed he had sent in complaints regarding street cleaning and officers had called to him this week to discuss issues and he was able to confirm that, for the next two-week period there will be double the amount of street cleaners in Ashburton. It was recognised that there has been problems and additional sweepers had been called in to catch up and all issues will be reviewed on a continual basis.

008/08GP Memorial seat – Pamela Day

The clerk confirmed he had held a meeting, during the Christmas period, with relatives of the late Pam Daly and he had been in contact with Teignbridge District Council. The family was interested in siting a memorial bench at Cleder Place and the clerk confirmed he has now received notification that the cost of this would be £800. This was to cover the cost of the seat, the siting of the seat and the continual maintenance. Regarding a tree, this would also be in the region of a maximum of £800. TDC has a policy that they will only now site established trees and this also covered future maintenance. The clerk stated he would be forwarding the details to Mrs Daily's granddaughter accordingly and then the decision would be in the family's hands.

009/08GP Garden competition date

It was agreed that the next garden competition will take place on 17 July 2008.

010/08GP Officer's Report

1. Proposed work updates re roads. The clerk stated that he had held a meeting with Alan Cash of the Highways Department and subject to the weather the following roads would be resurfaced. Stone Park area, 28/29 January. East Street, 30 January in the evening. North Street, 31 January in the evening. Chuley Road, 5 February. Woodland Road, 4 February. It was also noted that at Beverley Gardens resurface work would continue to take place. Also, Roborough Lane at the junction of East Street to Longstone Cross would be resurfaced. Rew Road and the large water holding due to blocked bubble hole, this would commence in March. It was noted that signs had been placed, originally at the site, but within two days they had been stolen. It was confirmed that signs are now present. At Cuddyford Bridge area, towards Longstone Cross, the drain has been blocked and this would be repaired during March.
2. Allotments. The clerk stated that Cllr Distin had suggested that, perhaps, residents who have large gardens and are unable to tend them might consider the possibility of allowing people to till them and private arrangements could be made as to how this would work. It was agreed that, certainly, the issue of allotments should be revised and perhaps another advert, by way of poster, could be placed around the town to see if anyone has land they would consider allowing its use as allotments. Also, consideration to be given to existing residents as to whether they would consider allowing someone to till their gardens. Cllr Miller suggested that, if perhaps, the landowners who had volunteered land for affordable housing were unsuccessful; perhaps they would consider their land being let for allotments. It was agreed that regarding recommending anyone to the residents this would have to be a private arrangement, as the council could not guarantee anyone by way of recommendation.

Recommend: Clerk to produce a poster

3. Teignbridge District Council. A letter received regarding installation of a litter bin, which would be sited on the car park side of the alleyway under bank house, leading to West Street. It was hoped that this would help to rectify the problems being experienced in this area with litter. Cllr Nutley would follow this issue up.
4. Secretary. The clerk stated that he has issued five application forms and so far one has been returned. It was agreed that the interview panel would be Cllr Posner, chairman of the town council; Cllr Gill, chairman of General Purposes Committee; and Cllr Richards, chairman of Finance and Town Hall Buildings Committee.

011/08GP Correspondence

1. Letter from a resident, which read:

Dear Ashburton town council,
I am writing to say that the parking in Cooks Close (Ashburton)

is unacceptable, they leave terrible gaps in between vehicles, there too big and also too small to fit vehicles in.

So please provide us with proper spaces so people can't park stupidly. This means that we will be able to park easier and quicker.

Also this means we might be able to fit more Cars on this road if you provide us with these parking spaces.

In conclusion this will help us to park less stupid. THANK YOU FOR READING THIS LETTER.

Yours sincerely, Miss **** ***, age 13.

The committee thanked the young resident for her letter and it was agreed that this letter would be copied to district councillors, county councillors and Teign Housing in an attempt to resolve the problems being experienced and the clerk would respond to the resident accordingly.

Recommend: Clerk to attend to above

2. Consultation on Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service draft corporate plan 2008/09 – 2010/11. Copies have been issued to councillors and they were urged that if they wished to comment, please forward it accordingly.
3. Temporary road closure notices in relation to item 010/08GP.
4. South West Life Long Learning Week (copies issued to councillors). It was noted that a questionnaire will be received by way of first stage research in connection with the role and function of parish councils, which will change considerably as a result of the government's White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities and the Power of Wellbeing.
5. (Copies issued to councillors). A complete calendar for 2008 of meetings, extra meetings etc involving the DAPC, NALC and the SLCC meetings.
6. Teignbridge District Council Standard Committee agenda and minutes. Available in the clerk's office if councillors wish to read.
7. Consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of local authority members in England. Available in the clerk's office for councillors to read and comment accordingly if they so wish.

012/08GP Any other urgent business

- Higher Roborough. The Roboroughs and Teign Housing are experiencing problems at the moment and it was felt that, perhaps, a letter to the chief executive of Teign Housing requesting and update might be advisable.
- The seat at St Lawrence Chapel is in need of repair. The clerk stated he had been in contact with Teignbridge District Council, as in fact there are two that require repair.
- Drain blocked outside of Ashburn Gardens in Roborough Lane.

- Gulley at 39 East Street is leaking and this is adjacent to the foul sewerage drain.
- The kerbstones outside of 15 St Lawrence Lane, near the steps of the Chapel, are in urgent need of repair as they are protruding substantially now and someone will trip.
- Kerbs also outside of Lloyds Chemist and a loose slab near the seating area of the Bull Ring.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

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Chairman
27 February 2008