

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th MAY 2009 AT 7.30PM IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL, ASHBURTON

Present: Chairman: Cllr Gill, Cllrs Posner, Pugh, Slater, Baker and the Clerk

033/09GP

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Brewer (on holiday) Cllr Distin (work commitment) Cllr Hitchcock (on holiday) Cllr Parker (family commitment) Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Posner and seconded by Cllr Baker

034/09GP

Election of Deputy Chairman

Cllr Posner wished to nominate Cllr Baker, this was seconded by Cllr Pugh and, there being no other nominations, it was carried unanimously

035/09GP

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

036/09GP

Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes (028/9GP) Peartree Nature Area

The Clerk stated that he was still investigating organisations who may be interested in looking after this area and it was suggested that the Ashburton Development Trust be contacted and also the Ashburton Futures Group.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE ACCORDINGLY

037/09GP

Allotments

A letter has been received from a resident stating that there was an area at Dolbeare Road which, due to circumstances, the owner is now unable to attend to and the resident wondered if the Town Council could assist the family by finding some keen gardeners who wished to grow their own veg and use the existing fruit trees and vegetable patch. The Clerk stated that a copy of this letter has gone to Fiona Lane of the Futures Group who is looking into allotments etc at the moment and the Clerk was asked to request Fiona to respond to the Town Council notifying them if they had anyone suitable and to follow this through accordingly. It was also agreed that the Clerk would respond to the resident, notifying them of the action being taken. It was noted that, regarding allotments for the Town, the affordable housing group will be assisting the Futures Group as much as possible in connection with available land for affordable housing and an update will be given by Cllr Posner accordingly. It was also noted that there are future meetings of DNP regarding reviewing the Ashburton Boundaries and also looking at exceptional sites

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO RESPOND TO RESIDENT'S LETTER ACCORDINGLY

038/09 GP Town Council Garden Competition

It was agreed that the garden competition will take place on Thursday 16th July and the Clerk was asked to write to the two judges to see if they would be available to judge this competition again this year. Also the Clerk would sort out the application forms, posters, write to last year's winners to obtain the return of the cups and shields etc and contact the media and advertise throughout the town. Also the Clerk was asked to ensure that all Councillors get copies of the application forms and take a poster to ensure that they try and encourage people to enter the competition accordingly.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO ATTEND TO ABOVE

039/09GP Correspondence

A letter was received from a resident raising great concerns regarding the Ashburton swimming pool and copies of the letter were read by the committee. Copies have already been issued to all councillors, also Cllrs Barker and Nutley. The committee were very concerned at some of the issues raised in the correspondence and where it states that only half of the swimming pool was available to swim in, as the other half was not considered suitable to swim in, and could not understand how half a swimming pool can be clean and the other half not. It was also noted that there were several visitors to the swimming pool and this sort of situation is not good for the reputation of the Ashburton swimming pool, the committee would like to see a set date each year of exactly when the swimming pool will open and for invitations to be given to Ashburton Town Council prior to its opening to view the condition then a member of ATC could call prior to opening. The Clerk was requested to write to TDC with a copy of the letter requesting their comments and also to confirm whether publicity leaflets have been issued and if not, why again so late this year. TDC would also be asked to copy in the Town Council to the response to the resident concerned.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE ACCORDINGLY

040/09GP Any Other Business

- Cllr Posner was concerned about the comments made at the FTC meeting by Cllr Nutley in connection with the play equipment and he would like clarification from TDC as to whether the equipment is safe, or is it condemned and also for Cllr Nutley to be copied in on the correspondence.
- Cllr Pugh was concerned regarding the kerbstones that have recently been re-fixed having been forced out by vehicles and, unfortunately although they have been re-fixed, they have not been aligned satisfactorily.
- Cleder Place flower beds, it was noted that the flower bed is fully over grown and if looked at carefully, roses can be seen underneath all the weeds, this needs urgent attention.
- Gate at Bullivers Way at Tappers end is in need of repair.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

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Chairman
Wednesday 24th June 2009