

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2007 AT  
7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Gill, Chairman; Cllrs Miller, Baker, Hitchcock, Richards, Pugh and Mrs Wisely. Also Cllr Prince

Cllr Gill asked the committee to stand in silence in remembrance of Cllr Barbara Nichol.

**100/GP      Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllrs Posner and Brewer. Proposed Cllr Hitchcock, seconded Cllr Miller. Carried unanimously. Also apologies from Cllr Slater who is not on this committee

**101/GP      Discussion with members of Ashburton Family Services**

Three members of Ashburton Family Services were welcomed to the meeting by Cllr Gill.

Mrs Wisely informed the committee that she had spoken to Mr M Harriott and had asked him to postpone further work on the site. Mr Harriott had told Mrs Wisely that the only work that would happen, at present, was removal of stones and returfing the area. The play trail where the peace pole was presently situated would need planning permission and, therefore, no further work would happen for many weeks.

The committee were informed that the community garden and buildings had been transferred to Ashburton Family Services in 2005 on the understanding that there would be open access to the public and the garden would be maintained.

There was now money available to invest and after consultation with parents who used the site, plans had been drawn up. The plans affect a small part of the garden but this had a knock on effect on the peace pole. Mr Harriott had spoken to Ms Teague about repositioning the peace pole.

The committee were informed that they would now be submitting the plans and that the reasons for development were:

- The site would still be accessible to the community
- A shelter would provide some shade
- The play trail takes up a small area and this provides a play area for very small children. There are very few areas for the under 5s, particularly in the town centre.
- TDC had no plans to develop any play areas for small children in Ashburton

- It was noted that some of the play equipment in Cleder Place play area had been removed.

The committee and members of Ashburton Family Services then discussed the need for more publicity, as many people in Ashburton did not know about the community garden, which is open from 8.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Suggestions for more publicity were the local press, town website, town council newsletter and possibly a launch day when the works were completed. Cllr Gill also recommended that additional signage would help to inform the public of the garden.

A few questions were asked of Ashburton Family Services to clarify that they own it. Ms Teague had originally asked permission to place the peace pole. The pole is 6ft high and 4 x 4 inches and that it did not need planning permission. The pole needs moving to allow the correct amount of space around the play equipment. It was suggested that if the pole was moved, perhaps a rededication ceremony could be performed and this would again publicise the peace pole.

The committee did not wish to see the plans at this time as they would await their arrival via Dartmoor National Park.

It was pointed out that any play equipment would be inspected by the authorities on a regular basis and therefore would need to meet all legal requirements.

Cllr Pugh wished to congratulate Ashburton Family Services on the work they are doing. Cllr Miller suggested that the Rev Preb Darby could be asked to mediate between Ashburton Family Services and Ms Teague and perhaps they could all get together to resolve the problems.

It was decided that the town council would write to Ms Teague, copy to Ms Hetherington, joint chair of Ashburton Family Services, commenting that the town council had now heard both the Awareness Centre and Ashburton Family Services. The council are of the opinion that the AFS make contact with Ms Teague to arrange a meeting to resolve the issue of resiting the peace pole and highlighting concerns over who has the public liability of the pole and the town council look forward to receiving the appropriate plans in connection with the proposals.

**Resolved: Clerk to write to AFS and the Awareness Centre**

**102/GP**

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

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

**103/GP**

**Matters arising from the previous minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**PACT meeting**

Cllr Prince thanked Cllr Gill for allowing him to speak at the GP meeting. He said that an email had been sent round giving details of the Police and Communities Together meeting and some councillors may have seen details of Cllr Barker's response.

The meeting had been called by the police because they had done a survey, calling on 370 doors in the town and the two main issues had been.

1. Traffic and parking
2. Young people and anti social behaviour

**Issue 1**

Gridlock on East Street caused by people parking illegally. The police will lose their powers soon but will still be able to deal with obstructions. Solutions could be:

1. No parking in East Street
2. Chicane
3. As now but with more enforcement

Balland Lane – one-way system outbound to facilitate coaches.

Cllr Barker had commented that there was no money available and it won't happen. He said that if the town council wish to raise this issue, they again funding might be withdrawn from Devon Highways. Nevertheless, Cllr Prince said that he wished to bring these issues to the town council's attention.

**Issue 2**

The meeting had highlighted the good work done by the Bank Youth Project. More lighting was needed in the recreation ground.

Cllr Pugh had also attended the meeting as president of the Royal British Legion as the RBL were in an area close to the recreation ground. He wished it highlighted that most people in Ashburton felt it was a safe place to live.

It was also pointed out that three young people had attended the meeting, together with representatives of the South Dartmoor Community College, the Primary School, the Chamber of Trade, Teignbridge District Council, the Bank Youth Project and the publicans. Cllr Prince said that they young people had been brave to put the heads above the parapet and acknowledge themselves that there are problems in the town.

Cllr Prince said that the principle action that the police wished to see was that the Council approach Devon County Highways to have a formal review of the traffic orders and parking arrangements in the town.

The committee discussed all the issues and highlighted that more bollards were needed, the staggered parking was to slow down drivers, illegal parking outside of the allotted spaces caused many of the gridlock

problems, double yellow lines down East Street would turn the road into a racetrack and where would the people park, skips and scaffolding caused problems.

Cllr Prince suggested that Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council be asked to submit requests for skips and scaffolding to the town council for its comments as they know the town better and could say what is appropriate.

It was commented that a bollard near the primary school and one by the Chinese restaurant had been hit. It was requested that these be reported to the authorities.

**Resolved: Clerk to report broken bollards to Highways**

Cllr Prince left the meeting.

**105/GP CD Rom update**

It was reported that the video and text had been completed and sent to Ross Collins. Music was being composed.

It was noted that the CDs would be charged for, the production of the CD would be paid for by the Information Centre who would be selling them.

**106/GP Gulleys**

A resident had reported that leaves and plant life was growing out of the gulleys. It was requested that these be reported to Highways.

**Resolved: Clerk to gulleys to Highways**

**107/GP Page on town website for Chamber of Trade**

The Chamber of Trade had requested a page on the Ashburton website. This was discussed fully including who would look after the page and it was decided that the clerk should write to the Chamber suggesting that they have their own website with a link to the Ashburton website.

**Resolved: Clerk to write to Chamber.**

**108/GP Traders to be included in garden competition**

This was discussed and Cllr Richards said he would float the idea to the Chamber. Cllr Gill said that this should not fall back on the town council to arrange. Cllr Richards said he would hate to see traders get out of the habit of displaying flower arrangements outside of their shops.

It was suggested that the clerk write to Ashburton in Bloom who may be interested in organising a traders' competition.

**Resolved: Clerk to write to Ashburton in Bloom**

109/GP

### Officer's report

- Ashburton Museum had requested the use of the town crest on its letterhead. Cllr Miller proposed this be allowed, seconded by Cllr Baker. All in favour.

**Resolved: Clerk to write to museum.**

- A request from the In-Con Singers to store its Clavinova in the town hall for a short period of time. The town council said that this would be possible until 31 December at the latest as in the new year work would, hopefully, start on the town hall refurbishment.
- The slabs had been replaced on the crossing place in North Street.
- There would now be a casual vacancy due to the death of Cllr Nichol. Teignbridge District Council had said that the advertising of this could be left until after the funeral.

110/GP

### Correspondence

1. A letter had been received from a disabled resident who had a blue badge that they had been refused a disabled parking permit for the Kingsbridge Lane car park due to the fact that they did not claim any mobility allowance. The resident would be prepared to buy a full-priced permit, however there are at least 20 people on the waiting list and it could be years before one becomes available. The letter from the resident had been forwarded to Cllrs Barker, Parker and Nutley, also TDC and DCC.
2. A letter from a resident re disabled access at Ashburn Close. This was discussed and a copy of the letter has been forwarded to TDC, Teign Housing and district councillors.
3. A resident had complained about the poor service of the No. 88 bus. This would be forwarded to the bus company and Devon County Council.

**Resolved: Clerk to forward letter.**

Cllr Pugh left the meeting.

4. A letter from TDC re flood management system at Jordan Meadow. This had been reported by Cllr Nutley at the last full council meeting.
5. DCC Road Closure. New Linhay Bridge. 8-9 November & 9-10 November 20.00 to 06.00.
6. A letter from Cllr Connett, TDC, stating that he will ensure the council's views on bus fares is passed to the relevant officer.
7. Email from resident stating that he was pleased to see the area outside of Churches cleaned.
8. DCC – Temporary Road Closure – from Memory Cross to church Cross to Thornecroft Cross, Ashburton from 15 October 2007 until 26 November 2007.

**111/GP**

**Any other urgent business**

- A request should be made from TDC and ask when play equipment at Cleder Place will be replaced.
- It was noted that Somerfield, Spar and other shops are spreading more and more onto the pavements. It was pointed out that if the enforcement officer was asked to look at this, it would be a blanket coverage of the whole town. Note: Cllr Richards declared a non-prejudicial interest at this point as being a trader within the town. It was suggested that perhaps the Chamber of Trade could write to all the traders asking them to give due consideration to the available space on the pavements. There must be space left for pushchairs and any disabled vehicles.
- Cllr Richards stated that there was a patch of water on Balland Lane and wondered what it came from.

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

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Chairman  
28 November 2007