



# Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
INFORMATION CENTRE**

**Present:** Cllr Brewer, Chairman; Cllr Gill, Deputy chairman  
Cllrs: Daw, Pugh, Nutley, Distin, Baker

**In attendance:** The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.

**030/11GP Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Parker who was on annual leave, Cllr Hitchcock who had family commitments and Cllr Slater, who had work commitments. Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Daw, seconded by Cllr Nutley. All in favour

**031/11GP Minutes of the previous meeting**

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

**032/11GP Matters arising from the previous minutes**

Cllr Daw stated that the footpath at Victoria House was now done. He asked if there had been any response re salt bins, the clerk stated there had been none and he would chase up. Cllr Daw stated that he had requested a salt bin to be sited at Miners Close and if the council did not supply a salt bin the residents of Miners Close would purchase their own. The clerk said he would inform Teignbridge District Council (TDC) about where bins should be sited. The clerk stated he would contact district councillors for an update. Cllr Daw stated that there was a query between TDC and Teign Housing re the footpath at Higher Roborough and again no response received. The clerk said he would contact them again, also Cllrs Dennis and Vogel.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO ATTEND TO ABOVE.**

**033/11GP Garden competition future plans**

The clerk stated that there had been 14 entries this year and approximately the same last year. In previous years there had been 30 plus entries, this had been when councillors had pushed the competition.

The clerk said that there were three options for the competition: 1) leave as is ie ex council houses only, 2) open up to the whole town, 3) stop it.

Cllr Distin said that he had spoken to the judges and if it was opened up to the whole town this would take approximately two days to judges.

The councillors discussed the options and decided to keep as is and make a sustained effort to get people involved. The councillors would go round with handouts to the estates and advertising should be done early.

**034/11GP Litter/dog bin locations**

A letter had been received from Teignbridge District Council stating that it is doing an audit of litter and dog waste bins asking if the town council believe these bins are sited in the correct locations.

The clerk stated he had been contacted by several residents who believed that the bin by the bus stop in West Street, next to the public lavatories, should be taken away as this would allow more space for people to queue for the bus and perhaps a bench could be sited there and a smaller bin sited on the post.

It was also decided to request dog bins at either end of Terrace Walk. A bin at the entrance to Westabrook and at the top play area. Cllr Baker stated she had tried to contact Tracey Lewis who did dog walking. The clerk stated he would email her and ask if she felt there were any extra dog bins needed.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO ATTEND TO ABOVE.**

**035/11GP Review of polling districts**

The clerk had sent details to councillors of the review of polling districts. This was discussed and it was decided to recommend 1) The Town Hall and 2) the Church Hall.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS TO TDC.**

**036/11GP Community certificate**

Cllr Brewer stated that this had originated from the Bank Youth Project (BYP) where young people had become senior members and whether it would be possible for the town council to give certificates to young people as recognition of their contribution.

Cllr Pugh believed it would be a slur on the scouts, girl guides etc to restrict to BYP as the other organisations do equally as much. He proposed that all the organisations should be included and inform them that the town council has this reward. This was seconded by Cllr Daw, All in favour.

Cllr Gill entered the meeting at 7.50pm.

The clerk stated that he would come up with wording for the certificate and bring to a meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO DESIGN CERTIFICATE.**

**037/11GP Rural skips**

The clerk gave an update from the Finance and Town Hall Buildings Committee. TDC had asked the town council to pay 50% towards the cost of a second rural skip and it

had been recommended to wait and see what use was made of the usual skip. All the councillors were in favour of waiting to see how well it is used.

### **038/11GP Officer's report**

- A written permission from the Twinning Association. This was signed by two councillors.
- An email had been received from Cllr S Barker replying to the clerk's concerns about the quality of the painting of the yellow lines and vertical stripes on the pavement and requesting that no more vertical stripes are painted until he could speak to councillors. Cllr Barker replied: Will speak to the engineers. Just to say that when the council wanted to have the return of the yellow lines - the request was made several times - we discussed the change from a zone to re-instating the yellow lines it was part of the discussion that to prevent loading/unloading and disabled parking in specific areas where there was potential for obstruction the only lining solution was the vertical lines on the kerbs. Anything else would allow loading/unloading and disabled parking and therefore the potential for obstruction as previously. There have been long running problems over both issues but particularly the abuse of the disabled parking being regularly reported by councillors. At a number of meetings it was checked that the return of the yellow lines was what was wanted because there were always going to be issues when people saw them having not had them for some time because of the zone designation - it was the zone that ensured there weren't yellow lines in a conservation area. Obviously they need to be painted properly and I will get them checked but there isn't another way in traffic regulation terms to keep areas clear that need to be kept clear.

The clerk said he had had lots of complaints and he had spoken to the contractors just before they started painting more on the second night. The clerk had sent emails to Highways, District councillors, etc but the only reply he had received had been from Cllr Barker. Cllr Brewer said that as the lines on the pavements were described as vertical he assumed that just meant up the edges of the pavement, not on top. The clerk said that the vertical lines were necessary to stop loading/unloading and disabled drivers parking. He stated that the parking restrictions were no different to the zoned area, it was just clearer with the yellow lines. He believed people would still park and load/unload but now they would be in no doubt that they should not and could not complain if they received a ticket. The general complaint was on the quality of the painting.

The clerk stated that he would keep photos of the work. The signs would be going up in a short time stating that there was no loading at any time.

Cllr Baker wondered what Dartmoor National Park (DNP) thought about the yellow lines and whether strong letters could be sent out to those who had not responded to the clerk's enquiries. Cllr Brewer stated that the town council had asked for the yellow lines due to requests from traders and residents. These had been advertised accordingly for public comment. The clerk stated he would keep councillors updated.

- The clerk stated that the large piece of play equipment in the recreation ground had been completed together with the surface. However, there was still nothing at the ball end.
- The clerk commented he had been asked by a couple residents what was happening to the youth club. Cllr Daw gave details as he knew them to date and suggested Mr Poole, as trustee, is the person to contact. A general discussion took place and the clerk was asked to write to Mr Poole for an update. Cllr Daw stated that if ever the youth club building was to be sold he believed there would have to be a public meeting. The committee identified that any public meeting would have to be called by the trustees. Concerns were expressed on the condition of the building.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK WRITE TO MR POOLE.**

**039/11GP Correspondence**

1. Email received giving details of the Stover Canal Society open days from 10am to 4pm on 20 and 21 August.
2. An invitation from the Ashburton Methodist Church to the Harvest Festival on 11 September at 10.30am.
3. An email from Fiona Lane, stating that she is no longer part of the allotment group.
4. An email from TDC giving details of the address of the new police station.

**040/11GP Any other urgent business**

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.18pm.

.....  
CHAIRMAN  
24 AUGUST 2011