



# Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Brewer: Chairman,  
Cllrs: Hitchcock, Distin, Gill, Pugh Nutley, Parker, Slater. Also Cllr Daw

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

**011/11GP Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**012/11GP Election of deputy chairman**

Cllr Nutley proposed Cllr Gill, this was seconded by Cllr Slater. All in favour.

**013/11GP Garden competition date**

Cllr Distin said that due to the weather the gardens may go over earlier and after discussion with one of the judges Mike Harvey it was thought it may be a good idea to hold the competition earlier. Cllr Nutley said that it would be an idea to try it this year and see how it went.

Cllr Gill said that the entries had been going down over the years.

The dates suggested were 27 or 28 June and the clerk was asked to write to the judges and ask which suited them best, Cllr Distin said he was available for both dates.

It was also decided that the garden competition should be reviewed on the GP agenda immediately after the competition.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE TO JUDGES AND PUT ON JULY AGENDA.**

**014/11GP Seating at full town council meetings.**

This was discussed and decided to keep as it is.

**015/11GP Recreation Ground**

Cllr Brewer stated there was a meeting to discuss the future development of the Recreation Ground with representatives of TDC at the Woodland Road Centre. The purpose of the meeting is to update stakeholders and users on current developments at the Recreation Ground and discuss future proposals in order to set out a long term vision for the area that meets all user needs. The users had been invited before when

the new play equipment plans were discussed. Debbie Marshall from Teignbridge District Council had met with Cllrs Brewer, Posner and the clerk to discuss the positioning of the play equipment and the position had been moved as it would encroach on the area used by the Bank Youth Project, carnival fete etc and it needed to be a multipurpose space.

Cllr Brewer explained that he was not happy about how it was progressing as it had not been completed. The Ball End has not yet been erected in the former children's play area and the piece of play equipment that required planning permission had had to be changed and planning modification submitted to DNP. Although it has now been ordered completion of the project is unlikely to happen before July/August. (area, now to be situated in the old children's park, had not been completed due to one company no longer having the equipment and after a modification to the plans a new piece of equipment was ordered but would not arrive until at least June so completion would probably not be until August.)

Cllr Daw asked who owns the Prigg Meadow Bridge. The clerk had still not had any response from his reply to TDC stating that the town council do not own the bridge. Cllr Pugh said that the town council need to press TDC and pursue this.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE TO CHASE TDC OVER BRIDGE OWNERSHIP.**

**016/11GP Ambulance Station Ashburton**

There had been no reply from the Ambulance service, the clerk was requested to send another letter, copying into Mel Stride MP and district councillors.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE LETTERS.**

Cllr Parker stated that one of the guests at Parkers Farm had had breathing difficulties and an ambulance had not arrived for 45 minutes and the person had died. He stated that it was important that any emergency services serving Ashburton have local knowledge.

**017/11GP Officer's report**

- The clerk had sent out an email regarding the election of the Finance Chairman. Cllr Brewer pointed out that although the proposal had not come from a member of the committee, all the members had voted in favour. He then asked whether this was something the councillors wanted to change to make it clearer whether it was appropriate for written proposals to come from any member of the town council or if it should be from committee members only. There was a very detailed discussion. Cllr Distin proposed that the election of chairman of the committee is done at the first committee meeting after the Annual meeting when every member of that committee will vote. Cllr Parker seconded this proposal. All in favour.

**RECOMMEND: CHAIRMAN OF EACH COMMITTEE TO BE ELECTED AT FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING**

## 018/11GP Correspondence

1. NALC. Consultation on regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act. Cllr Posner had sent an email to councillors and the clerk stating: I believe that we should respond to this consultation as it will affect the manner in which the Act is finally implemented.

I am content that the proposals are reasonable and a natural progression on what has been passed already, but I am disappointed that the current proposals exclude a legal requirement for Local Authorities (as defined in the Act) to involve representatives of local communities. Whilst it is clearly stated that such consultation is desirable, it is my belief that unless there is a legal obligation to consult, any likely future consultation will become token or cursory in nature, or simply will not happen at all. It is my belief that the proposed legislation should place an obligation on principal authorities to consult with local representatives prior to submitting proposals to the selector.

As the consultation period expires on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, I would be grateful if this e-mail could be considered under “correspondence” at the next GP meeting.

Cllr Brewer stated that originally the Act would have a legal requirement to talk to local/parish councils now this would only be a requirement to talk to county and district and ignores parish. Cllr Brewer said that he wished a few of the councillors to get together to formulate a response and would ask Cllrs Baker and Posner to do this with him. Then this response would be taken to the full council meeting.

**RECOMMEND: CLLRS BREWER, POSNER AND BAKER TO FORMULATE RESPONSE**

2. Details of a new property's registered address.
3. Details of the next TALC meeting on 26 May.

## 019/11GP Any other urgent business

- Cllr Parker wished to point out that he had not had a satisfactory answer to his question on why Cllr Baker could not be nominated as chairman of the General Purposes Committee. Cllr Brewer said that he had answered this at the full council meeting and that the chairman and deputy chairman of the council are members of all committees, Cllr Baker had withdrawn. Cllr Hitchcock said that it spread the workload. Cllr Distin did not believe it was necessary to change standing orders.
- Cllr Parker said that he believed it was necessary to include something in standing orders regarding the dress code. This was discussed in great depth, including Cllr Nutley stating that when he first attended a full council meeting he

had been impressed by the smartness of the town council and this was not the same everywhere. He also said that he felt it appropriate to dress formally when the public are at meetings. Cllr Nutley also stated that he had dressed formally to come to this meeting as he was not sure of the dress code for committees. It was proposed that new councillors should be invited to visit the town clerk and be given guidance on what to wear to full council and committee meetings. Cllr Hitchcock said that a motion could always be passed at full council if the standards started lowering. Cllr Brewer stated that most people can work out what is appropriate.

- Cllr Daw stated that a neighbor had asked what is happening with grit bins, the footpath near the allotments between Lower and Higher Roborough, and the footpath outside Virginia House near the war memorial. Cllr Brewer stated that the footpath near the allotments was the responsibility of Teign Housing, the footpath near Virginia House was the responsibility of the Highways Department and that TDC are doing a survey of where grit bins should be situated.
- Lamppost 11 on Cleder Place has holes either side.

Noted: Cllr Daw requested from the chairman to become a member of the General Purposes committee.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

.....  
CHAIRMAN  
22 JUNE 2011