



# Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Present:** Cllr Brewer, Chairman; Cllr Gill, Deputy chairman  
Cllrs: Pugh, Slater, Hitchcock, Nutley

**In attendance:** The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk. Also Mr J Fisher

**060/11GP Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Daw and Cllr Baker who were both unwell, Cllr Distin due to work commitments. Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Pugh and seconded by Cllr Brewer. All in favour.

**061/11GP Minutes of the previous meeting**

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

**062/11GP Matters arising from the previous minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**063/11GP Plan for snow warden**

Cllr Brewer welcomed Mr Fisher to the meeting and stated that the committee needed to decide what areas to prioritise for salting/gritting.

Mr Fisher confirmed a source for fine grit at a very reasonable price, which he would order.

The clerk confirmed he had emailed the district and county councillors regarding the purchasing of the spreader to ask if they would be able to contribute out of their community funds. He was able to confirm that Cllrs Vogel and Dennis are willing to make a contribution and he would follow up with Cllr Barker.

Regarding the spreader, the clerk would follow up on the cost accordingly and purchase through Devon County Council (DCC).

A general discussion took place on various issues and it was agreed that the clerk will now advertise for volunteers to assist Mr Fisher. Anyone wishing to volunteer will have to register with the town clerk for their area and be trained by Mr Fisher to be covered by insurance.

Following in-depth discussion it was agreed that the first priority for salting/gritting would be:

- North Street from the Bull Ring to Stapleton Lane
- Kingsbridge Lane, Kingsbridge and the entrance to the car parks
- Woodland Road/Whistley Hill up to the A38
- Balland Lane from Long Park to the entrance at Eastern Road.
- Additional important areas are the entrance to the health centre, the entrance and exit of the hospital.

In addition to the areas above, concentration would be made on dealing with pavement areas:

- Both sides of North Street from the Bull Ring to the commencement of Cleder Place
- West Street pavements on one side from Copperwood Close down to the Bull ring
- One side in Kingsbridge Lane and Kingsbridge
- In East Street, one side from the Bull Ring to the entrance at Balland Lane in Eastern Road.

Once all of these areas have been completed a reassessment of other areas will take place between the clerk and Mr Fisher.

Several people have commented they would like to volunteer to clear their particular area, ie Miners Close, Westabrook, Beverley etc.

It was agreed that as soon as the clerk has been notified of the volunteers and they have been trained they can be issued with a black dustbin with salt/grit in, which they would be responsible for to salt their particular area they volunteered for.

At the end of the season, the bins can then be washed and stored. As can the manual spreader.

It is important to progress urgently with these issues, the clerk was requested to obtain ten bins and order the spreader urgently.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO PURCHASE BINS AND SPREADER AND ADVERTISE FOR VOLUNTEERS AND LIAISE WITH CLLRS DISTIN AND POSNER ON THIS**

#### **064/11GP Allotments update**

The clerk confirmed he had written to Teignbridge District Council and that Glendinnings have given the allotment group some land, however this was covered with Japanese Knotweed and it would be three years before it could be planted. He was also advertising via posters and the press for available land.

Cllr Parker stated that a landowner has commented that they may have a field that could possibly be available for allotments but they would not wish to tie this up for a long period and Cllr Parker would discuss this with the owner further.

Cllr Pugh left the meeting at 8.20pm

**065/11GP Boundary commission update**

The clerk read an extract from the minutes of the Ivybridge meeting, which had suggested that Ashburton and Buckfastleigh are moved out of Central Devon and into the Totnes ward.

After discussion it was decided to respond to the Boundary Commission stating that Ashburton is content to remain where it is within the Central Devon constituency as it has changed in the last three elections and the town council would like some stability.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO RESPOND TO BOUNDARY COMMISSION.**

**066/11GP Beating the bounds**

The clerk read a letter received from Mrs J Distin that she wishes to send to landowners requesting permission to cross their land. The committee was happy for this to be sent out.

**067/11GP Officer's report**

- The clerk stated that there had been a meeting at the recreation ground and the collapsing wall would be reduced in height and railings placed on top to match the railings on the opposite side. Also, the ball wall would be sited as agreed at the meeting, which took place with all interested parties. The fencing next to the river would be replaced with a similar fencing recently fitted at the entrance to the recreation ground.
- The clerk had received several reports complaining about coaches parking all day in Balland Lane, the company had said that this is to save on fuel costs as after dropping off at the school the drivers returned in one coach. The clerk had contacted Highways. It was commented that if one company started doing this then more would. Cllr Hitchcock suggested that land behind Pear Tree could be used for coach parking. The clerk suggested that this could be discussed at the next car parking sub-committee meeting.
- The clerk stated that the plumber had reported that the flue at the back of the town hall is not in the correct place, it was too close to the wall. He had contacted TEC who are sorting this out.
- The clerk said that he had been contacted by Teign Trotters who wished to establish a closer relationship with traders in the town and he had put them in contact with Ashburton Chamber of Trade and also said that if they needed any advice or assistance they should get back in touch with him. Cllr Brewer said that this event could attract people into the town.

**068/11GP Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**069/11GP Any other urgent business**

The clerk stated that he had collected a large bundle of letters from residents relating to use of the Globe House Alleyway and would be sending these off soon and hopefully this would persuade Devon County Council Highways to adopt it.

**RECOMMEND: CLERK TO FORWARD LETTERS ACCORDINGLY.**

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

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CHAIRMAN  
28 DECEMBER 2011