



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Cllr Brewer, Chairman; Cllr Gill, Deputy chairman
Cllrs: Daw, Baker, Pugh, Slater, Hitchcock

In attendance: The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.

051/11GP Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Distin due to work commitments, Cllr Nutley due to a family commitment and Cllr Parker due to work commitments. Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Baker. All in favour

052/11GP Minutes of the previous meeting

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

053/11GP Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

054/11GP Community Certificate

The clerk read out a letter from the team leader at the Bank Youth Project nominating four young people for the community certificate.

The committee discussed the details of the certificate including how many should be given out, how often they should be given out, whether there should be an age limit, who should nominate for the certificate and publicising the certificate to all youth organisations in the town.

It was agreed that it is a certificate for the youth of the organisations in Ashburton and nominations would be confirmed with the heads of the organisations if required and the town council would decide if suitable and when any presentation would take place and nominations would be awarded when considered appropriate by the town council.

It was proposed by Cllr Daw that the four nominations from the Bank Youth Project should receive the community award, this was seconded by Cllr Slater. All in favour.

It was proposed by Cllr Pugh that the certificates be awarded at a full council meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Brewer, all in favour.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO ORGANISE PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES WITH CLLR DISTIN.

055/11GP Allotments

The clerk read a letter received from a representative of the allotments group stating that they had been advised that the town council has a legal obligation to provide allotments and had the power to compulsory purchase or lease land if land cannot be acquired by private agreement.

The clerk had responded to the resident stating that the town council do not have the powers to compulsory purchase, these powers are with Devon County Council.

The committee noted the contents of the letter and requested that the clerk advertise again to try and establish if any land is available and suitable for allotments. This will be done via posters and contacting the media to try and identify land.

The town council has tried on several occasion to find land for allotments as has the Futures/Allotments Group, all to no avail and another push was required in the hope of identifying suitable land.

Cllr Brewer stated that the town council had supported the Allotments Group and will continue that support. Cllr Hitchcock stated that there were other considerations to take into account when deciding on land, such as the provision of parking and the location of land.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO INITIATE ADVERTISING VIA POSTERS ETC FOR AVAILABLE LAND AND WRITE TO RESIDENT.

056/11GP Recreation ground update

The clerk gave councillors copies of a map showing the proposed position of the ball end received from TDC. He stated he had written back requesting confirmation that there was adequate space for vehicular access from Tuckers. This was discussed and Cllr Brewer stating that it could be moved slightly sideways to give more room for vehicle access. The clerk was requested to contact TDC and get a firm date for completion/reinstatement of the ball end.

Cllr Daw asked if anything was happening about the bridge from Prigg Meadow into the recreation ground and who owns it. The clerk stated that this was owned by TDC. The clerk stated that this would need to be considered in any assets discussion that may take place.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO CONTACT TDC AND GET A FIRM DATE FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE BALL END.

057/11GP Officer's report

The clerk stated that he had contacted Highways about the white lines on Great Bridge and an order had been placed to redo all the white lines in Ashburton

058/11GP Correspondence

1. The clerk gave details of resurfacing work on the A38 between Goodstone and Drumbridges. (Copies given to cllrs).
2. Letter from the Methodist Church giving the date for the Harvest Festival in 2012, Sunday, 9 September.
3. Email from TDC stating that they had no intention of closing the public toilets. (Copies given to cllrs).
4. Letter from Mr R Michelmore in relation to the alleyway from North Street through to the car park, which was in need of repair and that it was not owned by any of the neighbouring properties but Devon County Council had refused to adopt it.

The committee discussed the letter and it was decided that people should be encouraged to write to the Highways department requesting the lane be adopted. Cllr Pugh said that it should be pointed out that it was the only route for disabled access and if this route was not available then a paved area would need to be supplied round Kingsbridge. Cllr Brewer said it was the town council's job to encourage people to send letters and the clerk said that these should be copied to both district and county councillors and should be submitted to the clerk's office. Councillors can be supplied with a quantity of letters and be requested to obtain completed letters from residents.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO DRAFT LETTER TO BE SENT TO HIGHWAYS.

059/11GP Any other urgent business

Cllr Daw said that the cobbles/tiles needed attention in Foales Court. The clerk said that Church Path also needs attention.

Cllr Daw said that he had seen a sign in Newton Abbot advertising free parking. Cllr Pugh stated that this was for Sundays only and this also applied to Ashburton.

Cllr Baker asked if any word had been heard in relation to the assets from TDC. The clerk stated that a request had been submitted to TDC requesting five years income and expenditure details on all possible assets, owned by TDC. When these are received this will be brought before the town council for full in-depth discussion and a decision made as to do the town council wish to proceed and discuss further, there will be lots of questions that will need to be asked and great consideration given. Until the figures are received no further progress or discussions can be made.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

.....
CHAIRMAN
23 NOVEMBER 2011