MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL

Present:  Cllr Brewer, Chairman Cllr Nutley, deputy chairman  
Cllrs Dennis, Baker, Giles, Hitchcock, Slater, Daw, Ashford

In attendance:  The clerk and deputy clerk, Cllr Barker, three members of the public and one member of the press.

114/15 Apologies 
Apologies were received from Cllr Distin who was on annual leave, Cllr Irens for personal reasons and Cllr Khan had apologised that she would be late. Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Nutley. All in favour.

115/15 Public comments/statements. The public may speak for a maximum of 10 minutes on items on the agenda or items that may be considered for a future agenda at the chairman’s discretion 
Three members of the public wished to speak.

1. The first resident had passed a letter to councillors regarding the Ambulance Hall. She stated there was a coffee morning at the hall on 19 September. This was also an opportunity to thank those who had kept the hall going. She also said that there had been a letter from the chief executive wishing them well.

2. The resident asked, following the DNP’s decision to rescind the Masterplan. Is the town council going to ask why? The chairman stated that the town council had already been given the reasons.

Cllr Ashford entered the meeting at 7.40pm

3. The postmaster made a statement, which stated: Chairman and Town Councillors. Thanks to your contribution and support and that of so many other organisations who have worked with each other and us, we have created the UK’s 1st Post Office to incorporate a library in Ashburton. We are pleased and proud to advise that both are seeing continued increased footfall. We want to thank you for supporting the Official Opening on Friday 28th August. We were also proud to announce a UK first. Ashburton Post Office will contribute 2 pence for every transaction to a Community Fund. 1 pence will go direct to the Bank Youth Project who we are working with to allow us to advertise the new joint location for the Post Office & Library and our Cash Point initiative. We ask everyone to tell someone to support Ashburton Post Office and Library and make a real difference to our Town by undertaking cash withdrawal transaction. We will continue to keep you updated. Thank you.
116/15 Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.
Cllr Dennis declared a personal interest on planning application 51 Emmetts Park. This had however already been dealt with under delegated powers.

117/15 Chairman’s monthly report
Cllr Brewer’s report stated:

Cllr Khan entered the meeting at 7.45pm.

July 16th Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital League of Friends Annual General Meeting.
July 18th
Ale Tasting, Bread Weighing and Mediaeval Fayre Ceremonies another successful day, where the weather was kind and a lot of people gathered and joined in.
August 14th
The Portreeve and I were invited to attend Mrs Margaret Tidy’s one hundredth birthday celebration, which was a very happy occasion and covered quite well in the local press.
August 15th
I accompanied the Portreeve to the Ashburton & District Garden Association Summer Show, which as usual had a magnificent display of flowers, plants and vegetables.
August 18th
I met with Edina Worthington a Media Sales Consultant from the WMNews to discuss a double page feature on Ashburton, which would focus primarily on local traders.
August 20th
I performed the Official Opening of Lloyds revamped chemists with the Area Manager and the mayoress.
August 21st
Twinning Reception in the Town Hall our two towns have been twinned for 40 years and I had the honour of welcoming the Deputy Mayor of Cleder, presenting him with an engraved glass plate and asking the Portreeve to present certificates to the twinners who had been members for forty years.
August 28th
I attended a meeting with Stephen Belli, Planning Officer DNPA and Cllrs Elaine Baker, Sarah Khan and Deputy Mayor John Nutley. Mr Belli had called the meeting to explain the situation regarding the Chuley Road Master Plan, which had been approved by DNPA on July 3rd, where the correct procedure should have been to prepare and present the plan for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document. The original decision has been rescinded and there will be a review of the content and evidence base for the masterplan to ensure that it is sufficient for consideration and adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document. Engage in a further round of public consultation, with a six week period for representations to be made.

10.30 I moved on to celebrate another first for Ashburton; the Post Office and Library official opening by Mel Stride and Neil Ennis from the Post Office, the Deputy Mayor, Portreeve and Bailiff were all in attendance along with Friends of the Library, Library staff, Glendinnings MD and Chairman and other residents and of course Stuart and Jackie Rogers. Tony Beard and I had the opportunity to say a few words as well.
Another first is the fact that Jackie and Stuart are going to donate 2p of every transaction fee to local charity.

Saturday 29th I attended the re-dedication of the Burma Star Garden by Rev. John Andrews and laying of wreaths ceremony with the Portreeve, members of RBL and two Burma Star holders Cecil Woods and Bert Riddiough aged 94 and 93 respectively.

September 5th Town Crier selection
An excellent group of potential criers demonstrated their skills outside the Town Hall, which encouraged quite a crowd of onlookers and supporters. The outcome was the selection of a Town Crier Edric Waghorn and a Deputy Town Crier Suzie Williamson. We said farewell and thank you to our Town Crier for the past 15 years Pat Brophy.

118/15 To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 July 2015
These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

119/15 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting 14 July 2015
There were no matters arising.

120/15 Police report
PC Dudley’s report stated:

I would like to update you on Policing matters in the Town during the past month.

66 incidents were recorded. 22 of these concerned the A38 and a further 7 were traffic related incidents in the Town itself.

There were no reports of anti-social behaviour.

5 crimes were recorded. These included –
2 thefts, including the theft of a ladder and roll of lead from the rear of a property on East Street.
No burglaries were recorded, although an attempt burglary was recorded after locks were tampered with at a house on Chuley Road on 19th August.

A male was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving on Western Road on 29th August.

My next Police Surgery at the Information Centre is from 10-11am on Wednesday 7th October. I can be contacted at Conway House via the central no. of 101 or via e-mail Teignbridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
Alternatively the totally confidential Crimestoppers no. 0800 555111 can be used to pass information to the Police.

121/15 Finance and Town Hall Buildings committee report
Cllr Khan stated that the minutes had been circulated and moved adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Baker. All in favour.

122/15 Planning Committee Chairman’s report
Cllr Baker moved adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Ashford. All in favour.
Planning applications awaiting decision

0414/15 – Westabrook Farm, Rew Road  
Installation of livestock polytunnel (310sqm)  
Cllr Baker

Cllr Baker reported:

Applicant proposes to erect a polytunnel 31mx10mx3.7 max. ridge height as shelter for his large flock of sheep during lambing season.
I visited the site and discussed the application with the applicant on the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd September. Applicant has a flock of 200 sheep and proposes to erect a temporary polytunnel to assist in providing shelter for ewes and lambs during the lambing season. The polytunnel is to be placed in the lee of a hedge of a field close to the farmhouse and is placed so that the polytunnel is sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds. New born and young lambs will suffer greatly from wet conditions leading to a high mortality rate if not provided with shelter at the start of their lives. The applicant has provided thorough detailed supporting paperwork as requested by DNP. However when informed that
4. The polytunnel manufacturers state that the structure has a 5 year “life”
5. Foundations are basically small holes in the ground and
6. Erection of the proposed tunnel would take only 3 hours.
All of the above reflect the temporary nature of the proposed polytunnel.
My first thoughts were that this structure should be allowed under permitted development.
Whilst the Farm is within the DNP it is an agricultural landscape on the outskirts of Ashburton with associated farm buildings and so I believe that building a temporary polytunnel for necessary agricultural needs warrants Ashburton Town Council’s support and I would thus recommend that Ashburton Town Council support this application. This was seconded by Cllr Daw. All in favour.

SUPPORT

0308/10 – 56 East Street  
Erection of two residential units on the land to the rear of the property  
Amendment:  
To replace patent glazing on south-east elevation with natural slate

Cllr Baker reported:

An amendment has been sought on the development of “The Red Lion” at 56, East Street for erection of two residential units to rear of the building.
I visited the site on the morning of Friday 4th September 2015. Applicant originally proposed that the roof of the proposed dwellings be made of slate with two roof lights and a glazed section covering half of the roof at the top were it attaches to the main building. The amended plans are for the top section of the roof not to be glazed but to be slated, and on inspection this is the case!
In conclusion this is a minor amendment that has already been “actioned” by the developers. I would query this amendment especially as it is retrospective and robs the future occupant of the residential unit of light. Therefore I propose that Ashburton Town Council OBJECT to this amendment. This was seconded by Cllr Dennis. All in favour.

OBJECT

Planning applications decided under delegated powers

0357/15 Hele Cross  Cllr Baker
Single storey flat roof rear extension, replacement roof with dormer, re-rendering and demolition of two garages and replacement with triple car port with store shed

0362/15 – SDCC  Cllr Nutley
Two-storey kitchen and dining block to replace existing lightweight structure

15/00916 – Cursons, Dolbeare  Cllr Khan
Extensions to existing building to include insertion of dormer windows to main dwelling and gabled extension to the east

15/01977 – Lower Mead Barn, Alston Cross  Cllr Ashford
Application for prior approval under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class S to convert barn to registered nursery

0313/15 – Owlacombe Bridge Cottage, Sigford  Cllr Khan
Replacement garage to include store and plant room

0380/15 & 0381/15 – 14 East Street  Cllr Nutley
Single storey rear extension

0381/15 – 51 Emmetts Park  Cllr Distin
First floor side extension over existing garage with some minor internal alterations

0406/15 & 0407/15 – 26 St Lawrence Lane  Cllr Baker
Change of use from domestic ancillary to B1 business use

Grants of conditional planning permission

0313/15 – Owlacombe Bridge Cottage
Replacement garage to include store and plant room. NOTED

15/01796 – Land at Pitley Hill
Agricultural storage building. NOTED

Refusal of planning permission

Land at Stonepark Crescent
Erection of one market dwelling. NOTED

Appeal refusal of planning permission
Rew Farm Cottage Rew Road
Conversion and change of use of an existing stable block into two holiday units; ancillary accommodation located between Rew Farm Cottage and the proposed units will comprise of a WC and breakfast room plus addition of solar panels to the existing barn roof. NOTED

Proposed Tree Works

15/0031 – 3 Hurst Court
Tree not protected with tree preservation order. NOTED

123/15 General Purposes Committee Chairman’s report
Cllr Slater moved adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Baker. Carried. All in favour.

013/15 – Parish boundary stones. This would be discussed further at the next GP meeting.

124/15 Devon County Council Report
- Cllr Barker stated that the new Highways Engineer was Scott Riddell.
- There had been a county briefing on 12 August regarding grass cutting.
- Refugees. At this stage no decisions had been made and he did not know what the government’s intentions are. He gave details of refugees received in the UK and those expected from Syria. The county council has offered to provide support on any basis necessary. However, the council is already pressed in children’s services and the council would have to be careful to put refugees in areas where they can be supported. The council is comprehensively looking at all issues. He had had messages about using Kenwyn, there were no facilities at the building as all bathrooms, kitchen etc had been removed. Kenwyn was still under consideration as an extra care housing off the A38 between Chudleigh and Ivybridge. Bovey Tracey is not suitable. If Kenwyn is not chosen then it will be put on the market.
- Regarding the masterplan information between clients was privileged and therefore protected under Freedom of Information. There would be a new six week consultation. Cllr Barker suggested people resubmit there comments during the consultation.

125/15 District Council Report
Cllr Nutley stated that TDC had set up task groups for car parking and railways.

126/15 Councillors’ Reports on attendance at sub-committees and meetings of other organisations
Cllr Daw reported on a neighbourhood plan meeting, where a person from Exminster had advised that the group deal with things that they could do and not what they could not do ie deal with more practical issues.
127/15 Correspondence

i. Road Closure Notice – Woodland Road (copied to councillors). NOTED.
ii. Ashburton Methodist Church final service (copied to councillors). NOTED
iii. 2015 Housing Strategy event invitation (copied to councillors). NOTED
iv. Building works at Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Community Hospital (copied to councillors). NOTED
v. Email of complaint from resident about Ashburton Town Council (copied to councillors). NOTED
vi. Email of thank you re sign at Stone Park. NOTED.

vii. Email from Cycling Strategy Group (copied to councillors). Invitation for representatives of Ashburton Town Council to attend.


128/15 Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Cllr Nutley requested the refugee crisis be placed on the next GP agenda for discussion.
- Cllr Daw asked if BYP and Rollers had been asked to help deliver the housing surveys.
- Cllr Ashford stated that there are trees overhanging by Kenwyn/Western Road towards Pear Tree.

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