



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

In attendance: The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.

041/11GP Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hitchcock who was on annual leave. Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Distin. All in favour

042/11GP Minutes of the previous meeting

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

043/11GP Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

**044/11GP Update on email received from the Chamber of Trade Re:
Development Management & Delivery DPD by DNP**

The clerk stated that this had also come up during the planning meeting but gave a brief resume of what was said for those not at that meeting i.e. that Cllr Posner had drafted a response and, with amendments, this would be forwarded.

Cllr Baker pointed out that she had suggested that the Chamber of Trade attend the meeting but they had not attended.

045/11GP Car parking in Ashburton

The clerk had received several letters/emails with suggestions for car parking.

Cllr Baker also stated that Grey Matter had offered its car park at the weekend. Cllr Brewer said that this had been very good during the food festival, when Rendells and Mr Wills' forecourt had also been used.

Cllr Brewer also suggested that the main car park could have some short stay places, which would free some places up for people coming and going for shopping.

The clerk suggested that a sub-committee be formed to look at all suggestions, he also showed maps of suggested areas for parking that he had come up with. Cllr Daw felt that perhaps there were too many permits issued for Ashburton.

The setting up of a sub-committee would come up under matters arising from the General Purposes Committee chairman's report at full council. Cllr Gill proposed that a sub-committee be set up, this was seconded by Cllr Parker. Carried unanimously.

Cllr Daw suggested that the Highways Department could be invited to come to a meeting to discuss policy and suggestions for other areas of parking.

046/11GP Toilets (letter from TDC)

The clerk read a letter received from Teignbridge District Council (TDC) requesting assistance from the town council with a review of public conveniences.

The committee discussed the letter stating that these are the only public toilets in the town. The signage is not very clear and that the reply to TDC should be that they are a vital part of the community. Cllr Slater also requested that in the reply to TDC a request was made for repairs as the roof is leaking. Cllr Distin requested that TDC is asked for a guarantee that they won't be closed. Cllr Gill felt that at some point the toilets could be offloaded by TDC and it would then be up to the town council to maintain.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO RESPOND TO TDC.

047/11GP Flood Risk Map

The clerk gave details of an email from a resident which stated that the flood risk on official Environment Agency maps was not correct and was affecting sales and insurance costs of houses.

The clerk was requested to write to the Environment Agency asking it to correct any mistake and take into consideration that the map has not taken into account the flood scheme now in place in Ashburton.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY.

048/11GP Officer's report

- The clerk stated that interviews had taken place for the relief caretaker and a new relief caretaker had been appointed.
- The clerk read out an email from Debbie Marshall at TDC re the resiting of the Ball Wall at the recreation ground:

Boundary ownership

The matter of establishing boundary ownership at the north end of the Recreation Ground is still being dealt with by the Council's estates department and DCC.

Installation and positioning of the former ball end

The repositioning of the ball facilities to run along side the line of the north boundary has now been investigated in conjunction with the Council's structural engineering department.

It is not considered a feasible option due to the quantity of soil required to retain the failing wall and the costs that would be involved to undertake (£10,000).

It is considered that the original solution to position the former goal end on the flat leveled area next to the existing bow top fence would be the better option which they are looking to progress as soon as practically possible.

The clerk was requested to respond to Ms Marshall and more precise details on a map be obtained.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO GET FURTHER DETAILS FROM Ms MARSHALL.

The clerk stated that the alleyway through from the car park to North Street was unadopted by Highways and Robin Michelmore had stated that it is not on any deeds he had seen. The alleyway is in a bad state and is the signed disabled access from the car park to North Street. A request for letters to be written stating that it is, and has always been, used as a public right of way and that these are to be sent to Highways requesting that it be adopted.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE TO THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

- The clerk requested clarification on who wanted emails or hard copy of minutes and after discussion it was decided that when the minutes are originally produced emails would be sent to most councillors but hard copies given to Cllrs Gill, Slater, Pugh and Nutley. However, those councillors who received emails would receive a hard copy at the full town council meetings.

049/11GP Correspondence

1. A letter from a resident requesting a salt bin at East End Terrace. The clerk would add this to the list of other bins requested.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO ADD TO LIST.

2. Registration of a commercial property at Westcountry Storage Solutions, Caton.
3. Temporary road closures at Woodland Road on 10/1/12 and St Lawrence Lane on 19/1/12.
4. An email from TDC re Rural Skip service stating that there would be a skip in Buckfastleigh on 5 November 2011 and Ashburton on either 14 or 21 April 2012. It was decided that this needed publicising in April
5. A letter from Devon County Council (DCC) stating new library opening hours from 1 October. These are Monday 14.00 – 17.00, Wednesday 15.00 to 18.00, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10.00 to 13.00.
6. A letter from a resident of Station Cottages re the cattle market and parking in Ashburton. This letter had been copied to councillors and the Highways

Department. The clerk was asked to write to the owners of the cattle market to enquire whether they would be offering spaces to residents in Station Cottages and even offer them a 12-monthly permit.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO WRITE TO OWNERS OF THE CATTLE MARKET.

7. An email from Cllr Dennis giving details from TDC re the replacement of the felled tree on Cleder Place. Cllr Pugh said perhaps this could be delayed until the car parking possibilities had been resolved. The clerk stated that the tree had been planted for the jubilee celebrations of George V and perhaps a sign could be put up that the new tree is planted for the Diamond Jubilee next June.

8. The clerk read a letter from Mr Poole re the youth club. In the letter Mr Poole stated that the property was given to Ashburton Youth Club for the youth of the town and the only fair way forward is to call a public meeting to let the community decide its future.

The clerk was asked to reply thanking him for the letter and stating that the town council looks forward to receiving details of the date of the meeting and would be happy to provide the town hall for the meeting and produce posters to advertise the meeting. The clerk stated that this would have to go to the full town council meeting to approve this.

RECOMMEND: APPROVAL TO BE SOUGHT AT THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND THEN THE CLERK TO WRITE TO MR POOLE.

9. An email from Tesco re community champion in Newton Abbot. This was discussed and the clerk recommended to put up poster to advertise.

RECOMMEND: APPROVAL TO BE SOUGHT AT THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND THEN THE CLERK TO WRITE TO MR POOLE.

050/11GP Any other urgent business

Cllr Daw asked whether there had been a reply re the rolling fence at the allotments. The clerk stated that there had not but there had been a reply re the container. The clerk would again request assistance from Cllrs Dennis and Vogel to try and get the repair completed.

Cllr Parker stated that regarding Information Centres doing bookings for accommodation, he had established that they were usually paid and affiliated to Visit Britain. The clerk stated that the Information Centre does not recommend individual accommodations but does distribute a list of B&Bs etc from the advertisers that advertise in the Information Centre. It is then up to the individual to decide which accommodation they contact.

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

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CHAIRMAN
26 OCTOBER 2011