



# Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Baker, deputy chairman  
Cllrs Distin, Giles, Parker-Khan, Daw, Nutley, Brewer, Slater

**In attendance:** The clerk, deputy town clerk and Mr S Rogers

**014/17GP Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Dennis. (previous engagement), Cllr Hitchcock (unwell) and Cllr Irens (dispensation). Acceptance of this apology was proposed by Cllr Parker-Khan seconded by Cllr Giles. Carried

**015/17GP 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.**

Mr Rogers wished to speak:

Town Councillors  
Good evening  
Thank you for taking the time to receive an update .

The Post Office is many things to many people .  
Making a positive difference to valued customers , businesses and organisations is important to sustaining Ashburton Post Office & with your support we have achieved this .

We have to ensure we remain compliant and we are very much restricted on space .  
At peak trading times we are struggling for space and instigated using a van to assist in our operation

The Ashburton Post Office van is essential to manage and ensure mail volumes to enable the operation to be undertaken in a complaint manner ..

The van is parked in a safe and responsible manner ensuring there is no obstruction to emergency vehicles .or pedestrians outside the branch.

We gained permission for the Christmas period which required us to purchase a daily dispensation permit . this is expensive which is not sustainable

We have a solution that needs to be allowed to run.

We are already being assisted on this and the vehicle meets the exception that is in the regulations for such vehicles .

We need the support of Ashburton Town Council to make representation to Devon County Council to support of request of the Post Office van to be allowed to be parked at peak trading times without a risk of receiving a parking enforcement ticket .

We need to seek the reversal of the previous letter sent to DCC from Ashburton Town Council about no parking in St Lawrence Lane and support our request for the Ashburton Post Office postal vehicle to be parked outside the branch responsibly without causing an obstruction at peak times only

We remain committed with our values of contributing and participating in Ashburton and not just operating .

We ask for the continued positive collaborative working with Ashburton Town Council .

**016/17GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**017/17GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 25 January 2017**

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

**018/17GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 25 January 2017**

The clerk had two matters:

1. Pavement clutter in town- after our discussion with Chamber I was going to have a quiet word with retailers involved but as this was at the time the Road Closed signs came out I decided that as these signs were bigger than the trader's signs I would cut my losses.
2. Public Benches – awaiting a response from Teignbridge ref the car park and St Andrews as this is a different department and I am still trying to have the benches at the Bovey memorial benches replaced.

**019/17GP Traffic regulations proposals, ie yellow lines**

As mentioned at full council by Cllr Barker, it is the time of the year when we ask for traffic regulations to be reviewed such as yellow lines. Do we want to request action at eastern road? This will mean parking is reduced. Councillors discussed in detail and no decisions were made.

**019/17GP Town council response regarding school funding**

The clerk stated that Cllr Parker-Khan had bought this up at the full council meeting. Cllr Parker-Khan would draft a response, she wanted to double check information. This would be circulated for a decision at full council.

**019/17GP Post office parking permit, St Lawrence Lane discussion, Cllr Nutley**

Cllr Nutley had spoken to Devon County enforcement. He had explained the post office's requirement for the van for times when they need to store post. He hoped they would turn a blind eye. A request for two or three parking bays were turned down. Cllr Brewer asked if this could be explained further.

Cllr Baker suspended standing orders. Mr Rogers stated that when the bays had been applied for DCC had applied the current regulations which mean that the road was not wide enough for bays outside the post office. The post office had paid for a dispensation to park the van outside over the Christmas period but this cost £5 per day. Mr Rogers stated that he would need a dispensation from 2pm to 5.30 pm.

Cllr Baker reinstated standing orders.

Cllr Parker-Khan stated that the town council needs to support businesses. The post office is now the town's only bank and supplies a cash point.

It was proposed by Cllr Parker-Khan that a letter of support be sent to Highways that the post office is given a permanent dispensation to park outside the post office. This was seconded by Cllr Nutley. All in favour.

**Recommend: Clerk to send letter of support as requested above**

**022/17GP Correspondence**

- Road closure notification re Headborough and North Street. The clerk stated that this had been sent out last week and both the clerk and Cllr Barker asked for the road closure to be delayed. The response had been that it would to either August or 12 months' time.

**023/17GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.**

- Cllr Nutley stated that for information he had spoken to Breeze Radio about the current gasworks. Cllr Nutley also discussed with them about the Dolbeare Meadow site and the closure of the bank.
- Cllr Slater stated that parking on the corner of St Lawrence Lane by the junction with East Street is a nightmare and particularly so with the diversion. Can traffic wardens not be asked to patrol this area. Cllr Daw said perhaps police bollards could be placed there. The clerk stated that Scott Riddell, Highways, is pushing for more visits to St Lawrence Lane during the gas works to make sure it is kept clear.
- Cllr Brewer stated that the town council has taken over responsibility of looking after the Mill Meadow grass area behind the Victoria Inn, which used to be done by TDC at the behest of DCC but neither of them own the land. The town council extended

its contract for grass cutting with Pollards. Cllr Brewer stated that perhaps the town council should investigate the possibility of claiming the land as town council land. The ownership should be investigated via the Land Registry.

The clerk was requested to place this on the next Full Council agenda

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

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CHAIRMAN