



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllrs Baker, Brewer, Vogel, Giles, Nutley, Distin and Dennis

In attendance: The clerk and deputy clerk. Three members of the public.

012/19GP Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Daw (annual leave), Cllrs Parker-Khan, Irens and Ashford (previous engagement). Acceptance of the apologies was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Nutley. All in favour.

013/19GP 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.

Two members of the public wished to speak:

- i. The resident introduced himself as David Ashton, the co-founder of the Barn Owl Trust which employs 12 local people. He stated that since the IPCC report in Poland he had been engaged in climate change and hoped that the councillors were aware of climate change. He stated that as David Attenborough had said: We need leaders to lead. He stated there is no time for education and hoped the town council would lead by example. Regarding the community award he suggested one could be given as an environmental award to someone in the town who had reduced their carbon footprint. He asked that the town council consider carbon neutral, solar panels when looking at planning applications. He also requested that the town council ask businesses in the town to do a green audit. Cllr Baker suggested the town council talk to the Chamber of Trade.
- ii. The resident introduced himself as Vernon Coon from South Devon Railway. He stated that the railway was celebrating 50 years as a heritage railway. When it first started trains were still running in Ashburton. They will be running events over 5-7 April and run their heritage bus to Ashburton. He would like permission to put mileposts on Bulliver's Way. Mr Coon was requested to send a letter giving full details and this would be discussed at the next full council meeting.

014/19GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

015/19GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 23 January 2019

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

016/19GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 23 January 2019

- No Vehicle signs at church path have been done by highways
- Mill Meadow / Ashburn Close do not show on the current work list in your pack will continue to chase.
- Correction of the highways map to show Ashburn Close has been raised with highways
- White lines in Ashburn close have been reported W191205535
- Flooding outside the news agent has been reported W191205540 other drain in the loading bay is covered under correspondence.
- Town Diary issue, this is been looked at on two levels firstly so that we can maintain the hand written diary and on line the process is that if some adds to the town diary it is either added directly to the website or if the volunteer at the time is not comfortable doing this they add to a sheet and this will be added to the web site when the next volunteer happy to add is in the info centre. Emails from the website with events are added to the web site and the town diary when they come in. Secondly carrying on from the work done by the chair of the chamber of trade we are seeking technical assistance and a quote from Cosmic (recommended by the DNP) and Lethbridge (Discover Ashburton) and this is a longer ongoing process.
- Problems with the Town Bus at Roborough Terrace and the possibility of double yellow lines

017/19GP Carbon neutral – declare an emergency – discuss (Cllr Irens)

The clerk stated this will be passed over as still working on the text and this has not been completed in light of DCC latest offering I would like to move this to the next full council meeting to discuss. And in light of comments of the resident. Cllr Distin requested that the suggested document be emailed out prior to the meeting to allow councillors to read in full.

018/19GP River clearance at Great Bridge

Cllr Dennis was concerned about the silt build-up in the river at Great Bridge and had sent an email to Tracy Pike at Teignbridge Council, her reply stated:

In our experience, silt removal is an expensive and complex operation and the silt usually returns within a short period of time. Silt removal is not something the Environment Agency generally promotes as dredging operations can have an adverse effect on the environment.

The removal of the vegetation and root material may help to dissipate some of the material naturally. The Environment Agency would need to be consulted and a risk assessment completed to ensure that the works can be carried out safely.

Should you wish to consider the de-silting works then you will need to discuss your proposals with the Environment Agency's FCRM Officer - Simon Dart on Exeter 02030 252489. Works in the stream channel are not permitted during the fish spawning period which ends 1st April. The silt would need to be tested and approval for disposal obtained from the waste disposal site operator. A lane or road closure licence would be required from Devon County Highways as the waste material would need to stock pile and dried prior to loading it onto a lorry and transporting to the tip.

Councillors discussed and Cllr Dennis would continue to investigate this.

019/19GP Parking at St Lawrence Lane

Following on from an email from a member of the public, Cllr Barker had announced at the last full council meeting that enforcement officers, who had been taking a light touch in the area, had now been told to start issuing tickets for illegal parking.

020/19GP Community awards - discussion

Councillors discussed in detail. It was proposed by Cllr Baker that the awards be publicised widely and that people are asked to nominate people by 4 October and any awards to be presented at the December meeting. If there are any the town council would like to present for a particular reason, these could be done at another time. This was seconded by Cllr Giles. All in favour.

021/19GP Energy efficiency - discussion (Cllr Baker)

The clerk stated that he had been asked to look into appointing a consultant and he has eventually found someone to come and have a look at this for the town hall. Cllr Baker had found two companies to do closed loop systems. Cllr Vogel said that this should be looked at for the Community Land Trust.

022/19GP Correspondence

- i. Delicatessen issues with Foales Court. The clerk had received a letter from Ashburton Delicatessen stating that Biffa waste contractor has refused to take their bin down Foales Court due to the loose cobbles making it a health and safety issue. The clerk stated that Biffa and the owner of the Deli are having a meeting and he would be attending. The clerk was asked to report back at the next GP meeting.
- ii. 8 March 2019 Road Closure in North Street. The clerk stated that this is for an overnight road closure in North Street, East Street and West Street to finish off the humps.
- iii. 10 March 2019 drainage works in North Street. The clerk stated that this is to fix the drain in the loading bay outside the chemist.

Councillors discussed the problems with people parking on the humps and how this affects people in wheelchairs etc. It was suggested that the clerk speak to Highways and also the dental practice to ask if they are having deliveries that the drivers do not park on the hump outside.

023/19GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Cllr Baker stated a resident had asked a person not to park on the pavement in East Street. The driver had been abusive and the police were called she could not get through the 101 number for 26 minutes. She stated she was very disappointed with the police.
- Cllr Giles stated that the antique shop opposite the Post Office is encroaching more onto the pavement.
- Cllr Distin asked about the bad state of the yellow lines at the Victoria Inn. The clerk stated that these would be redone.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

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CHAIRMAN