

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE 2009 AT 7.30PM IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL, ASHBURTON

Present: Chairman: Cllr Gill, Deputy Chairman; Cllr Baker; Cllrs Posner, Pugh, Hitchcock, Brewer, Distin, Parker and the Clerk

041/09GP

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Slater who had a family commitment, acceptance of this apology was proposed by Cllr Posner, seconded by Cllr Distin, carried unanimously

042/09GP

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were signed by the Chairman as a true record, carried unanimously.

043/09GP

**Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes (039/09GP)
Correspondence Re Ashburton Swimming Pool**

A letter had been received from John Cocker, Strategic Manager TDC, who stated that with regard to an opening date for the outdoor pools. He states: " We have traditionally opened them on the Whitsun bank holiday weekend. The past few Easters have been rather glorious and at Buckfastleigh we have been able to open for the weekends only from Easter but this is only possible with the Friends of Buckfastleigh help. I believe that we offer this facility to Ashburton Town Council last year but I understand that for whatever reasons this was not progressed. Having discussed the issue with my colleagues in leisure, may we suggest that we have an opening day, the Saturday of the Whitsun Bank holiday where we invite the Town Council to take part in it by encouraging you to organise activities, fun sessions, games, rat races etc for your town getting local residents involved in generating some positive publicity in the swimming pool facility and also the Town."

It was also noted that, regarding the leaflets, a request for the leisure staff to drop off leaflets to the Town Hall would be made as soon as possible this week. Concerning the comments regarding an opening day, the committee felt that, yes this could certainly be considered and discussed again at another GP meeting but what was more concerning was that no answer was given to the original question of why was the swimming pool opened if it was considered not to be clean, as stated in the previous correspondence. Cllr Parker believed that this was due to a leak in equipment, which created a cloudy appearance in the water. Cllr Distin felt that the reply should come to Ashburton Town Council and not by way of word through Cllr Parker. The committee agreed that the Clerk would write again and request answers to the issues raised in the original letter.

RECOMMEND; CLERK TO DEAL WITH ABOVE

040/09GP Any Other Business

The Clerk had now received a response regarding the play equipment at The recreation ground from Debbie Marshal, Play Area Project Officer TDC and in her letter she stated: "based upon our last play inspection undertaken at the recreation ground the play equipment at the site was not considered to be in a condition where removal was required however, in light of your email, I will make arrangements for an operations inspection to be conducted in case there has been any vandalism or any deterioration in the equipment since our last inspection." **NOTED**

044/09GP Garden Competition Update

The Clerk confirmed that both judges have responded and are able to judge the competition. It was agreed that the start time would be: Meeting the judges at 10.00am in the Clerk's office;

Lunch will be at the Chairman's discretion and is yet to be determined

The Clerk confirmed that at the present time there have been five entries received. Cllr Gill commented that she felt perhaps Town Council might need to review the criteria regarding the garden competition of who is able to enter. The general feeling of the committee is that they would not like to see the garden competition dissolve and perhaps future discussions may need to take place and look into a possible re-vamp or review the criteria. The Clerk stated he had spoken to Cllr Miller who, due to work commitments, felt he would not be able to be present on this year's date of 16th July and the request was made to Cllr Brewer whether he would be able to be in attendance. Cllr Brewer stated that unfortunately he was away at this period and would not be able to attend but he has spoken to Cllr Miller and, having re-organised his work commitments, will now be able to attend.

045/09GP A38 Brown Sign

The Clerk confirmed that the Chairman, Cllr Miller, had contacted him to inform him that the brown sign was erected in 1996 and the Clerk confirmed that he had now received a letter from the Chamber of Trade requesting that the Town Council pursue the reinstatement of the sign with the Highways Agency as they do consider these signs to be of great importance to Ashburton. It was agreed that the Clerk would establish a cost for replacing such a sign to be reinstated on both the East and West bound carriageways and respond back to the Chamber of Trade accordingly.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO ASCERTAIN COST OF REPLACING SIGNS AND NOTIFY THE CHAMBER OF TRADE OF THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN

046/09GP European Market Update

The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Ashburton Chamber of Trade and Commerce (ACT) regarding the proposed visit of a European market. The ACT had decided that it was not a good idea to go ahead with this and Cllr Distin stated that he wished to support the Chamber of Trade on this issue as he did not feel there is a need for a European Market to come to Ashburton as the local traders could well be affected by this, also thought should be given to them and personally he did not believe that this attracts any additional visitors. Cllr Pugh stated that, regarding the last visit of a French market, there was a huge amount of visitors in Ashburton and the eating and drinking establishments were full of visitors. It was noted that although the last visit was on a Sunday, this proposed visit was for a Friday. The Clerk was requested to email the organiser back to establish if they have

decided on a date, but no response had been received, it was therefore agreed that the Clerk would email the organiser again saying that as no answer has been given he can only assume that they would not be coming to Ashburton.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO EMAIL ORGANISER ALSO INFORM A.C.T ACCORDINGLY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

047/09GP Officer's Report

The Clerk showed the committee the material chosen for the curtains for the main hall.

048/09GP Correspondence

1. A response letter from the trustees of Stapledon Youth Club. The Clerk read out the contents of the letter received and it was suggested that the trustees are not responsible for the youth club but the actual building and they proposed that, with help of the Council that a meeting be organised for the Town to decide on the future of the club and its associated building. Possible solutions are as follows:
 - a) Interested bodies to be found to form a group that will refurbish the building with the knowledge that the Council will provide support in raising the necessary funds (this has not succeeded in the past?)
 - b) Sell the building for the highest price and distribute the funds to the youth club within the town ie: St John Cadets, Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs, Football and Cricket Club etc, Mr Daw stated that he knew the cricket club has run out of money for the new pavilion and the football club wished to extend into the adjacent field)
 - c) Leave the building to rot

The committee discussed the letter in detail and it was agreed that a public meeting should be called and it should be left to the people of Ashburton to decide on its future. Cllr Posner stated that many years ago, having searched the deeds, he could not identify within the deeds if any conditions applied in connection with youth of Ashburton. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to Mr Daw asking him if he could confirm if there is a deed of trust and if there is, could the Town Council have a copy. If there was no deed of trust then a public meeting should be called, subject to agreement with the trustees. It was noted that the trustees would have to call the public meeting but would be supported by Ashburton Town Council

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE IS A COPY OF DEED OF TRUST

2. Email from a trader in North Street regarding the possibility of a park and ride stating that they thought they had heard there was a site for a park and ride at Peartree and wondered if a private taxi firm might put on an eight person carrier doing a run every ten minutes from Peartree into town and out to Emmetts Park then back into town and up East Street, stopping on demand, then make its way back to Peartree. It was felt that this would help the parking and town congestion. Passengers could pay £1 for a ride and paying extra depending upon the length of stay. The person felt that perhaps this could be subsidised, by who is another matter of course, but it would be good to try this scheme. It was noted by Cllrs that there is a new town bus and perhaps this could be

incorporated in some way. It was noted that the current bus runs 10am to 12noon and it was noted that this has been discussed in great depth previously by the Town Council where sites were identified at the Peartree end of town and also the Community College parking area. It was generally felt that the community college parking would create problems and Peartree would be the better area to consider and the committee agreed that the TC would reopen the issue and look into the possibilities; the Clerk was requested to write to the Dartmoor Lodge to see if they would be willing for an area of their parking to the rear of the Lodge to be used for a small park and ride and also for the Clerk to check up on whether there is any funding available for such a scheme. It was agreed that this would be placed on a future GP agenda.

RECOMMEND: CLERK TO PLACE ON FUTURE AGENDA AND FOLLOW UP ON ISSUES NOTED ABOVE

3. Email re-festival committee asking for permission to use Cleder Place for a three day festival. The committee had no problem with this request and wished the festival well.

4. Road closure notice for Saturday 18th July 09. It was St Lawrence Lane, which would be closed from 1400hrs to 2130hrs for the ancient Ale Tasting, Bread Weighing and Medieval Fayre ceremony.

5. Street collections.

27th June 2009 to 4th July 2009 Ashburton Carnival committee

17th August 2009 South Devon Animal Rights **NOTED**

6. Details of proposals for the celebration in 2010 for the 800th Charter Anniversary in Ashburton. There were many suggestions detailed in the correspondence and it was agreed that this would need to be studied in detail and Cllr Posner volunteered to look into the correspondence and report back accordingly.

RECOMMEND: CLLR POSNER TO REPORT BACK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

7. Email regarding a proposal to hold the big lunch at Cleder Place on Sunday 19th July. This was being organised by Mr Michael Cranmer and TDC wished to know if the TC have any objections. The committee had no objections and would wish this event every success.

049/09GP Any Other Business

- Cllr Brewer stated that he had met some young people recently who had spoken to TDC who had stated to them that there are funds available for skate park areas and with the Council's permission he would follow this issue up and ascertain if there is funding available and perhaps the skate park area within the recreation ground could be revisited again.
- Cllr Baker wished to note that the Ashburton gulleys all need cleaning and also there is still no further progress regarding allotments at the Kenwyn area as everyone is unsure exactly what is happening at Kenwyn.
- Cllr Posner stated that his daughter travels the world and often goes online to view where to stay and accommodation, food and drink sections and she commented that she was very surprised that the Ashburton website does not make more of the facilities of food and drink available in the town, especially as the BBC has a tremendous amount of information

on Ashburton's catering establishments and perhaps the front page of the website needs to be reviewed and even a hyperlink to the BBC or these articles be displayed in some way on the site.

Cllr Distin commented that regarding the finance minutes he noted that a letter had been sent to Mr Burnett agreeing with an extension on his recommendations and he wondered why the FTHBC had agreed to extend the contract. The Clerk stated that this is not an issue for the GP committee meeting and should be brought to the FTHBC committee for discussion, not this committee. Cllr Posner commented that whilst recognising this was not an issue for this committee he could easily answer the question by stating that it was because the TC had raised in excess of 40 additional items, it was recommended by the professional advisor to the TC that this was a reasonable request within which ATC should comply.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

.....
Chairman
Wednesday 22nd July 2009