



# Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY,  
12 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF  
THE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Nutley, deputy chairman  
Cllrs Distin, Irens, Slater, Giles, Khan, Ashford, Baker, Dennis

**In attendance:** The clerk and deputy clerk, Rev D. Sherwood, Cllr Barker, and four members of the public.

**001/16 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Brewer, who was unwell; Cllr Daw, who had a previous engagement and Cllr Hitchcock who was on annual leave. Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Irens. All in favour. Also apologies from PC Dudley.

**002/16 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**

One member of the public wished to speak.

A resident wished to ask the town council for help and support in regards to the Ambulance Hall. There was an article in the Around Ashburton giving details of what is happening. She had been encouraged by the support given but they had not been able to secure funding and needed the town council's help on securing funding. She asked if the town council want to keep the hall as help is needed to raise funds and also with legal advice. She requested that this be placed on a committee agenda.

Cllr Nutley stated that this would be taken to the next General Purposes Committee meeting for discussion.

**003/16 Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.**

Cllrs Khan and Distin declared a pecuniary interest in relation to 15/02697 Land at Dolbeare.

**004/16 Chairman's monthly report**

In the absence of Cllr Brewer, Cllr Nutley read his report, which stated:

It was good to see Councillors and partners for Christmas Drinks after the last Council meeting on December 8th. Thanks to Eileen, Linda, Jill and Eve for preparing the nibbles and serving the drinks.

December 10th brought the occasion of our Christmas Late Night Shopping event, which despite the weather attracted quite a lot of people. I have subsequently written to the Chamber of Trade as I was a little concerned about the organisation of the event, which had been done by a professional engaged by the Chamber. I questioned the need for a road closure from 1.00 p.m. when the title Christmas Late Night Shopping indicates that shops are staying open beyond their normal closing time. I was concerned that the street market effectively blocked off the shops in North Street. Would not the traders have been better served if the street market stalls had been situated back to back in the centre of North Street? This would have enabled the flow of shoppers to have access to shops and stalls on each side of the street.

I wondered why some stalls were situated in North Street beyond the Kingsbridge turning that was not part of the road closure, which impeded traffic flow and made crossing the road at that point dangerous.

I talked to many people both during and after the event and I know I am not alone in having these concerns.

On Saturday, December 20th Eileen and I attended the Craft Fayre in St Andrew's Church Hall during the day and in the evening the Incon Singers Christmas Concert, both were very enjoyable events.

On Sunday December the 21st I had been asked to read the first of the nine lessons in the Carol Service, which was held in the Town Hall. The event was well attended, ably led by the Reverend David Sherwood and provided all with the opportunity to sing carols and celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. Some of the lessons were excellently read by young people.

Eileen and I were away for Christmas, which meant the Portreeve, Bailiff and Deputy Mayor made the Christmas Day visit to the Hospital. The three went on to the Town Hall where Janet and Ian Lockwood Lee had again organised Christmas Lunch for about 25 people. They were as always ably supported by a team of volunteers. The Portreeve made a presentation to Rosie and her sons who after about 8 years are taking a break from helping at the event as they have moved out of Town. There was also a draw, which raised £74.00 and it was decided to donate this to Ashburton Swimming Pool. Our thanks to Janet and Ian and their team of volunteers without whom this popular annual event would not happen.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

**005/16 To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 December 2015**

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

**006/16 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting 8 December 2015**

There were no matters arising.

**007/16**

**Police report**

In the absence of PC Dudley, Cllr Nutley read the report:

66 incidents were reported. 22 of these concerned the A38 and included a car aquaplaning into the central reservation near Whistley Hill on 3rd January and a lorry shedding hay bales on 5th January. No motorists were injured in either incident. There were a further 9 traffic related incidents in the Town itself. These included the arrest of a 45 year old male from Auswell for drink driving on 16th December. 3 reports of anti-social behaviour were made.

12 crimes were recorded. These included-

3 offences of Common Assault

1 offence of sheepworrying

4 offences of Criminal damage. 3 of these related to damage caused to parked cars at the top end of East Street in the early hours of New Year's Day.

No offences of burglary were recorded.

Our Neighbourhood Team Sergeant was Mark RUSTON, based at Chudleigh, left for pastures new on 4th January and has been replaced by Acting Sgt Will YOUNG who is based at Conway House, Ashburton.

My next Police Surgery at the Information Centre is from 10-11 am on Tuesday 19th January. I can be contacted at Conway House via the central no.101 or via e-mail [Teignbridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Teignbridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Alternatively the totally confidential Crimestoppers no. 0800 555111 can be used to pass information to the Police.

**008/16**

**Planning Committee Chairman's report**

Cllr Baker stated that the minutes had been circulated and moved adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Ashford. All in favour.

**Planning applications awaiting decision**

**0660/15 - 14 Long Park**

**Cllr Baker**

Roof extension to raise existing ridge height

Cllr Baker's report stated:

14 Long Park Ashburton is a detached two bedroomed bungalow in a cul-de-sac between Balland Lane and Old Exeter Road. The bungalow has rendered walls and UPVC doubled glazed windows. Applicant proposes to raise the roof by 90cms/3ft. to provide 2 extra bedrooms, landing and a W.C., two roof lights and the gable ends will have new PVC windows.

I visited the applicant at 14 Long Park on the afternoon of Wednesday 6th January. Although the application states that none of the proposed windows and roof lights will

overlook neighbours I believe that they will and visited the close neighbours that would be affected by the proposed changes. Of the 6 neighbours I visited 4 were at home and raised no objections to the planning proposal, indeed one next door neighbour has done a similar roof extension. Two neighbours were not at home and I left notes asking them to contact me if they wished to comment-which they have not.

The applicant will reuse existing roof tiles where possible and match the building materials to existing materials and finish.

The proposed extension has little impact on the landscape and Long Park has a hotchpotch of extensions and roof lights in many of the dwellings, I therefore propose that Ashburton Town Council support this application. This was seconded by Cllr Irens. All in favour.

**SUPPORT**

### **Applications decided under delegated powers**

#### **0634/15 - 11 Dolbeare Road**

**Cllr Nutley**

Removal of conservatory to rear of dwelling. Construction of new single storey rear extension to dwelling to form living room. Formation of timber decking to rear. NOTED

Cllrs Distin and Khan left the room, as they had both declared a pecuniary interest, while Cllr Baker gave details of the application.

#### **15/02967 - Land at Dolbeare**

**Cllr Baker**

Change of use of existing building and site from agriculture to offices (B1) and secure storage yard. NOTED

Cllrs Distin and Khan returned to the meeting.

### **Grant of conditional planning permission**

#### **15/02846 - Goodstone Stables**

Hay barn. NOTED

#### **0586/15 - Hele Linhay**

Solar panels on the roof. NOTED

### **Grant of listed building consent**

#### **0523/15 - Oxford House, 10 West Street**

Taking down and reconstructing stone boundary wall. NOTED

### **Certificate of Lawful Use or Development**

0546/15 - 22 East Street

### **Appeal**

Hooks Farm, Sigford

- Masterplan update  
The clerk had given councillors copies of an email received from Dan Janota at Dartmoor National Park Authority, which stated:

In September 2015 Dartmoor National Park Authority [DNPA] commissioned an Environmental Report for the draft Masterplan. The statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) were asked to comment on the scope of the report and we received their comments in November.

Following comments received from the Environment Agency, DNPA held discussions with them regarding flood risk matters, in particular in relation to the Tuckers site and its delivery. We have met jointly with Tuckers to discuss the Environment Agency's advice.

In September we also invited Friends of Ashburton Station and South Devon Railway to meet us. They took up this offer in December, with the two bodies now taking professional advice to support their proposal. There is a continued interest in how a rail route could be safeguarded, now recognising that this must be based upon evidence.

DNPA are also aware of imminent changes to government policy which may also impact on the way the site could be delivered, and these changes must be taken into account in any revised draft.

Given these ongoing discussions we do not expect to consult on a revised draft yet. We remain committed to achieving a positive outcome at Chuley Road, though, recognising the community's priorities for the site. We are keen that development is able to progress where it achieves these aims, and that the community is involved in a final decision on how the site is developed.

The clerk stated that he had tried to speak to Mr Janota but Mr Janota had been in meetings for the last two days so had not managed to contact him.

**009/16 Discussion re: The change in status of pre 1949 Rights of Way**

Cllr Baker stated that it had been brought to her attention that all public rights of way including footpaths, bridleways and byways open to all traffic have to be registered by 1 January 2026. These have to be recorded on the Devon County Council Definitive Map and Statement. Ashburton's were reviewed in the mid 1990s. If any member of the public wishes to check or record a new right of way they need to contact Helen Clayton, Public Rights of Way Officer at DCC, email [helen.clayton@devon.gov.uk](mailto:helen.clayton@devon.gov.uk). Telephone 01392 382602. There is also an interactive map of Devon rights of way at [gis.devon.gov.uk](http://gis.devon.gov.uk).

**010/16 Update re: Clinical Commissioning Group meeting**

Cllr Khan attended a meeting on Thursday 7th January with Cllrs Daw, Hitchcock and Baker. The meeting with the CCG was regarding the future of the hospital and

community services. She stated that there have been some difficulties with the CCG; they had presented information, which when analysed, didn't correlate with their own statistics and was often contradictory. The lack of professionalism from certain leading CCG members appeared to be disrespectful towards the stakeholders. She believed that they are looking to close the hospital beds as the CCG believe they are too expensive and the preferred model is to treat people in their own homes. Their statistics say that 52% people do not need to be in the community hospital. Early indicators are that there will be a requirement of one nurse for eight beds with a minimum of 2 nurses at any one time, this would point to unit with a minimum of 16 beds-there are 10 beds at Ashburton & Buckfastleigh Hospital, however, there have been no firm proposals put forward to the Scrutiny Committee yet. The League of Friends will need as much support as possible from the town council and the wider community. Cllr Khan said she would keep the town council updated with developments.

Cllr Nutley stated that there had been a lot of support the last time and sure there would be again.

#### **011/16 Devon County Council (DCC) Report**

Cllr Barker stated that DCC had set up a flood resilience fund. Grants of up to £2,000 were available via Community Council of Devon to support local volunteers to buy tools, equipment, road signs etc. With so many floods there were not enough people to get around unless communities help out. He said that there is a Devon Community Resilience Forum, with experts on flooding and it was worth looking at what other people are doing. He stated that in the event of flooding, emergency services would only attend if there is a risk to life as they are requested to stay at their bases so they can be called out to where needed.

Cllr Barker stated that he had today received the forms for the Temporary Traffic Order for North Street. He stated he would sign these off and make sure it happens.

Cllr Barker stated that the following day DCC would decide on the budget. It was proposed to raise the council tax by nearly 4%. This was 2% over the referendum threshold allowed by the government for adult social care services. This would be used to fund the national living wage, which would cost the council around £7.4 million. The additional council tax would amount to £6.4million. If they did not do this then there would have to be drastic cuts to social care. Overall there was to be an increase in social care of 5.4%. The government are on a trajectory to get the rate support grant down to zero. He was fully committed to ensure that the elderly, children and vulnerable are fully supported. He also said that it was necessary to make sure that caring as a profession is respected and there would be an advertising campaign for the public to understand the importance of careers.

Cllr Barker also gave details of the Ashburton Masterplan from a Dartmoor National Park Meeting.

Cllr Barker stated that following recent flooding events, the Environment Agency has changed its mind about the flood risks at Chuley Road. They had put in an objection to the plans submitted, which would mean a reduction in the number of houses on the site. The river at the Recreation Ground would need widening. He discussed the plans for

Eastern Road and the potential additional capacity. He stated that flooding had to be dealt with and how to get increased flow through the Chuley Road area. This will probably hold the masterplan up for approximately two to three months.

Cllr Baker stated that she had dealt with the planning application already received and had found that the flood relief plan submitted was not fit for purpose. She stated that it was not the Environment Agency's fault that the masterplan is delayed.

Cllr Barker confirmed his statement and reiterated that as he stated the Environment Agency has changed its mind and put in an objection and this will hold up the Masterplan.

Cllr Ashford asked about what was being done in the Stonepark area. Cllr Barker stated that the whole area is subject to revised plans from the Environment Agency.

Councillors discussed all the areas in details with Cllr Barker.

The clerk stated that the plans need to include access to the Recreation Ground. Cllr Barker stated that he had already given details that the town council need access.

## **012/16 District Council Report**

Cllr Barker stated that Teignbridge District Council (TDC) would be increasing the council tax by 1.99% because the rate support grant had gone down. He stated that there was to be a small increase in the hourly rate for the short stay car park and a reduction in the charge for the long stay car park. He asked Cllr Nutley to explain this.

Cllr Nutley stated that he had missed the last meeting of the car parking group and gave details of a change of lines to indicate the positions of the long and short stay car parks. This change also gave a few additional long stay spaces. He stated that better signage is needed to indicate which car park is long stay and which is short stay.

Cllr Khan stated that decreasing the long-stay charge may encourage more people to park there unnecessarily and wished for this to be discussed further. Cllr Barker stated that the decisions are not set in stone yet.

Cllr Dennis stated that he had been out twice during flooding at Balland Lane to clear drains. He had been in contact with Scott Riddell at Highways with regards the drains. He stated that they would only clear drains if there is standing water for 24 hours or more. He had also spoken to the Portfolio holder for recycling as he had had complaints that recycling was being collected late. The Portfolio holder had stated that this was due to the vast quantities of recycling. He also stated that if people were having more recycling than they could get in their boxes, TDC would supply more.

Cllr Dennis had attended the Skylarks nursery and was very impressed with it.

Cllr Dennis had been appointed to the Railway Review Group to review TDC railways. He was also pushing for a park and ride from Heathfield with Network Rail.

Cllr Nutley stated that regarding the issue of flooding he had emailed DCC on this and Ashburton drains were not due to be cleared until February. He said that just before Christmas Roborough Lane had been like a river but they would not clear them as it was not life threatening. He also stated that all the gulleys in the town are blocked. He had also attended the Skylarks nursery and said it is a fantastic place.

**013/16 Councillors' Reports on attendance at sub-committees and meetings of other organisations**

Cllr Khan gave details of the Bank Youth Project. She said there is a £10,000 shortfall in funding and have set up a funding group and would appreciate any suggestions for where funding might be applied from. The main funding presently came from the Big Lottery and the Cookery School's funds had halved. There are also some other smaller donations. Cllr Khan stated that the two pumps in the BYP had failed and these would need replacing. Cllr Khan said that there is very good attendance from the younger members but the older members' nights were up and down. She also gave details of some staffing changes at the BYP.

Cllr Giles gave details of Cancer Research UK fundraising events. The Winter Ball raised just of £1,500, the Christmas fayre £615 and the big breakfast £798. She stated that there is another big breakfast on 13 February.

Cllr Ashford had attended the Chamber of Trade meeting and there had been discussions on the Late Night Shopping and realised there are problems and this would be discussed further.

**014/16 Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.**

- The clerk stated that there someone had sprayed grafitti on the old recreation ground store and he had contacted the blitz team but the removal would incur a charge. He would bring this to Finance for discussion.
- Cllr Nutley stated he had hand delivered a letter to businesses requesting donations and to date over £1,200 had been donated. A thank you letter would be sent to those businesses. A sub committee will be formed and he asked this to be placed on the Finance agenda for further discussion.
- Cllr Distin stated that the Christmas lights would be taken down on Sunday, 17 December and requested that anyone who is available turn up to help.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 8.31pm.

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CHAIRMAN