



# Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs Hitchcock, chairman  
Cllrs Nutley, Distin, Daw, Giles, Brewer, Parker-Khan, Dennis, Ashford

**In attendance:** The clerk and deputy town clerk

**001/17GP Apologies**

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

**002/17GP 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.**

No members of the public present.

**003/17GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**004/17GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 23 November 2016**

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

**005/17GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 23 November 2016**

There were no matters arising.

**006/17GP Churchyard – general discussion (Cllr Nutley)**

Cllr Nutley stated that he had spoken to William West and met with Rev. Fenton. Official closure is down to the diocese. Cllr Nutley had mentioned that there is land possibly available and would be a good area. Rev Fenton was looking at the possibility of reburials for those over 50 years. When official notification is received there is three months available to take action.

**007/17GP Pavement clutter in town – general discussion**

The clerk stated that are two main points to this:

- One was in St Lawrence Lane. The trader concerned had visited the clerk and he was making every effort to clear the pavement.
- East Street, there are areas where pushchairs etc can't get through.

Complaints had also been received regarding North Street.

Councillors discussed and felt that a personal approach to businesses concerned to ask them to clear the pavement would be the best course of action. It was proposed by Cllr Dennis and seconded by Cllr Giles that Cllr Brewer, who is attending the next meeting of the Chamber of Trade, speak to them about this and if they could do anything. Following that meeting the town council could send individual letters if no action is taken. All in favour.

#### **008/17GP Bollards on pavement, Eastern Road – general discussion**

The clerk stated:

1. Email from Cllr Nutley with a van parked on the pavement
2. Drivers driving over the pavement to get through

The suggestion was to put bollards to prevent this.

After a discussion with Scot Riddle, Highways who had visited the area. They are proposing;

- i. Firstly high light the issue to enforcement officers to monitor the area to prevent parking on pavement
- ii. Increase the number of passing areas on the other side of the road to remove the need to drive on the pavement

They are against putting in bollards mainly down to cost and cost of repair.

Cllr Nutley showed a photo of a van parked.

Highways had stated they will increase traffic control officers in this area and had suggested that perhaps there should be increased passing places with yellow lines.

#### **009/17GP Public benches update, following Cllr Daw's report**

The clerk stated he had contacted Teignbridge Council regarding the benches they owned and they had replied asking if the town council knew any of the original people who had placed the benches there and would they like to repair them. The clerk had attempted to contact anyone and had no luck to date. Teignbridge Council stated they no longer repair benches as this is an expensive option and that either the benches can be removed now or leave until they have to be removed. New benches could replace them when people requested one as a memorial.

The clerk stated that the benches at Bovey monument are the responsibility of the town council.

**010/17GP Lloyds Bank proposed mobile bank, council response**

The clerk stated that is Lloyds bank is proposing a mobile bank service that will stop in Ashburton for two to four hrs per visit. Lloyds bank want to know what the council think of the proposal, and if the council would want to be involved in the discussion. Councillors discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Parker-Khan that the town council do not respond, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis. All in favour.

**011/17GP Utilities gas works – future works details**

The clerk stated that the works start on 20 February 2017. There was a drop in today (27 January 2017).

Issues discussed by councillors included an order to remove parking at the end of St Lawrence Lane by the Silent Whistle, an idea to possibly use Lloyds Bank as a pop-up shop during the works, the postmaster is communicating with Sawdye and Harris.

**012/17GP Correspondence**

- i. The clerk stated that there would be a road closure at Pitley Hill from 30 January to 3 February for essential road surface patching.
- ii. The clerk stated that regarding the Methodist church, councillors have all had the letter that Ashburton singers has expressed an interest and now have until 1st June 5pm to have an offer accepted. If after this time the church is not sold to them then the owners have a 12-month protected period during with the church may be sold on the open market.
- iii. The town council had received an invitation to put forward a nomination to attend the Queens Garden party on 1 June 2017. Details must be sent to DALC 1 February. Generally it is the past Mayor who is recognised unless they have already been to a garden party. It was proposed by Cllr Parker-Khan and seconded by Cllr Hitchcock that Cllr Nutley be nominated. All in favour.
- iv. Cllr Irens had sent an email requesting a further dispensation due to illness until mid-March. It was proposed by Cllr Parker-Khan and seconded by Cllr Nutley that this dispensation be given. All in favour.

**013/17GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.**

- Cllr Parker-Khan stated that there is a nationwide Big Spring Clean over the weekend of 3-5 March and it would be nice if the town council organised this for Ashburton.
- Cllr Daw stated he would be attending a briefing meeting on 31 January regarding the National Grid overhead line refurbishment.
- Cllr Daw stated he was applying to join the Devon Community Resilience Forum.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

.....  
CHAIRMAN