



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY,
14 JULY 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllr Brewer, Chairman Cllr Nutley, deputy chairman
Cllrs Giles, Baker, Hitchcock, Ashford, Khan, Daw, Irens, Distin, Slater, Dennis

In attendance: The clerk and deputy clerk, PC Dudley, four members of the public and one member of the press.

097/15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Barker who was at a previous meeting.

098/15 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

Three members of the public wished to speak. Therefore they would each have two minutes to speak.

1. A resident asked how the town council would maximise the value of its land at Bulliver's Way. The Tuckers plan will go ahead and could leave the town council at a disadvantage. The clerk stated that at the present time no one had contacted the town council. Cllr Brewer stated this would be put on the planning agenda for further discussion.

RESOLVE: CLERK TO PLACE ON PLANNING AGENDA.

2. A resident wished to inform the town council that Shane Hooper a resident of Teignmouth, previously of Ashburton, had died when a trawler sunk. He had left behind three children.
The resident also stated that there had been an article in the Railway Heritage magazine. This magazine had a circulation of 30,000 and probably only a few of them were residents of Ashburton. He said "who does this magazine and staff think they are". He called on the town council to write to the magazine stating this sort of bully boy tactics will not be tolerated. He stated if the town council did not want to write he would. Cllr Brewer stated that he would take advice on whether the town council should respond as he did not know the magazine and had not read the article.
3. A resident had just come from a meeting on the St John Ambulance Hall. She said that they had had a marvellous response on promises and to date they had received £1,500. She requested that the town council take up on their behalf a reduction in the rates. As a charity St John did not have to pay rates and hoped

the group could come under that umbrella. The clerk stated that this would be a matter for Teignbridge Council rates department.

099/15 Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

100/15 Presentation by Janice Alexander, Rural Housing Enabler.

Ms Alexander stated that there are two allocated sites in Ashburton for affordable housing. Her job was to work with town councils if they want a survey on housing needs. Dartmoor National Park had requested she work with Ashburton on a housing survey. The survey comes in two parts a) general survey, b) actual housing need. The last survey in Ashburton had been done six years ago and they only have a five year shelf life. The town council would be asked to contribute £300 towards printing costs. The current known need for affordable housing from Devon Home Choice was 60. The survey was usually delivered by volunteers but could be posted out if the town council was willing to pay for the postage.

Cllr Baker stated that the affordable housing committee had drafted its own allocation plan for affordable housing and there was money available in the Neighbourhood Plan pot which could possibly be used for postage costs.

The time schedule for the survey would be probably sent out in the middle/end of September and the residents are given one month to return it. If anyone on the Devon Home Choice list does not reply they are contacted and also any residents who do not give enough information are also contacted.

Cllr Khan pointed out that Dan Janota, DNP, had stated that the town would need to do another housing needs survey.

Cllr Brewer stated that discussion on this should involve the affordable housing group. The clerk stated that this would need to be a separate meeting from the Planning Committee.

RESOLVE: CLERK TO ORGANISE MEETING.

101/15 Request from Philip Darby for the town council to sign the 40th year Charter of twinning.

Cllr Brewer suspended standing orders.

Mr Darby stated that when the Ashburton Twinning had gone to Cleder in May the Charter had been signed and he had been requested to bring it over for it to be signed by Ashburton Town Council. Mr Darby read the wording of the charter. He asked that the mayor and Portreeve sign the charter. He also wished to thank the town council for helping the Twinning celebrate the event.

102/15 Chairman's monthly report

Cllr Brewer's report stated:

The first official engagement in June was to attend the St Andrew's Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall where we were joined by the Portreeve and Master Bailiff, although the Portreeve didn't stay too long as he got called away by the fire brigade!

On the morning of Thursday 25th a day after returning from holiday, I was stopped by a young person and informed that the newly installed Picnic Bench in the Recreation Ground purchased by Rollers with a grant from the Town Lottery Fund had been covered with inappropriate graffiti and moved to a new location. Two community minded local builders; Shane Fleming and Paul Canham arranged for the bench to be moved back to its original location, re-secured and graffiti removed in time for the Carnival Fete. I have visited the bench each morning since then and on two further occasions I found and removed a small amount of graffiti. The last ten days have seen no new graffiti. Each day when I visit the recreation ground I think how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful area with such excellent facilities.

Carnival week commenced as always with a coffee morning in the Town Hall ably organised by the Ashburton Pensioners Association. The event was very well attended.

At this juncture I would like to pay tribute and offer congratulations to the Carnival Committee and their helpers for organising so many excellent activities and events during Carnival week. The Fete on the first Saturday attracted lots of people and generated a great atmosphere and those present appeared to really enjoy themselves. Carnival Songs of Praise an excellent occasion but was sadly not very well attended on the Sunday evening. I missed the Bingo on Monday but understand it was a full house, the Darts final on Tuesday was in full swing when I left at about 9.54 pm. Apparently it was a very long night for some! Wednesday was the day of Children's Fancy Dress and Sports in the Recreation Ground, another very well organised event, which attracted a lot of people and was very enjoyable. The Portreeve reliably informs me that the evening saw another full house in the Town Hall for the Carnival Quiz, ably run by Dennis Waterman and Rob McNichol. Unfortunately the Portreeve's team didn't win the quiz.

Thursday afternoon was the time to judge the window dressing competition, standards from those entering were very high, Moor Chocolate won with Gifts and Galleries and Teasels just pushed into 2nd and 3rd. The evening saw a very well supported Fun Run followed by the Duck Race. Friday night was the time for Party in the Dry but also unfortunately only for the few. Saturday's Carnival procession was spectacular with some very original entries and was very well supported. So well done Carnival Committee for an excellent week.

On Friday July 10th I with hundreds of others attended the funeral of Paul Knowles who sadly died from a heart attack whilst on holiday in France. The service was a moving tribute to Paul who was such a pillar of the community and had contributed so much to the community life of Ashburton, a true gentleman who will be sorely missed.

The following day we attended the annual coffee morning to raise funds for the Ale Tasting, Bread Weighing and Mediaeval Fayre Ceremonies, which take place next Saturday, July 18th. The morning was a great success and Paul, who had been

treasurer to the Courts, would have been very pleased with the outcome, a profit of just under a £400.00

103/15 To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 June 2015

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

104/15 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting 9 June 2015

There were no matters arising.

105/15 Police report

PC Dudley read his report:

I would like to update you on Policing matters in the Town during the past month.

92 incidents were reported. 29 of these concerned the A38 and a further 7 were traffic related incidents in the Town itself.

There were 3 reports of anti-social behaviour, including skateboarders in the Bullring at 4am on 14th June and 3 adults in the swimming pool at 3am on 4th July.

9 crimes were recorded. These included - 3 offences of assault

1 theft - fencing equipment stolen from Auswell .

2 burglaries. These related to the theft of a lawnmower from the Royal British Legion shed between 1st and 14th June and an attempt to steal from the Dartmoor Lodge on 21st June.

Arrests made include those of a male and female from Portsmouth in relation to the burglary at the Dartmoor Lodge.

A male was also arrested on suspicion of drink-driving at Peartree on 4th July.

I can be contacted at Conway House via the central no. of 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.

PC Dudley also stated that the carnival had gone very well and there had been no issues for the police to get involved with. It had been a very successful week.

Cllr Daw stated that a resident was concerned as they were not sure whether they should ring 101 or 999 when they witnessed people in Ashburton Swimming Pool during times when it is closed. PC Dudley stated that they should ring 999 as not only were they in the pool when they should not be but also because it could be dangerous as there were no lifeguards in attendance. Cllr Daw stated that the resident has also been worried that the people in the pool would know who had reported it. PC Dudley stated that the police did not pass on these details.

106/15 Finance and Town Hall Buildings committee report

Cllr Khan gave a brief summary of the minutes.

The clerk stated that he had still not had official notice from DCC on the library.

Regarding yellow lines, the clerk had managed to find a company who were willing to put the lines down free of charge. However, he had been informed that he believed an order may have now gone in for these lines. There was a possibility the town council may not need to pay the £350 for the order. Further details to follow.

The clerk stated that under 074/15F – town clerk’s succession. Also succession of the Steward to the Courts needs to be discussed as this is a town council appointment.

RESOLVE: CLERK TO PLACE SUCCESSION OF STEWARD ON THE NEXT GP AGENDA.

Cllr Khan moved adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Baker. All in favour.

107/15 Planning Committee Chairman’s report

Cllr Baker moved adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Khan. All in favour.

Planning applications awaiting decision

TPO – 15/0031 – 3 Hurst Court Cllr Baker
1 Holly (fell)
Dealt with under delegated powers

0313/15 – Owlacombe Bridge Cottage, Sigford Cllr Khan
Replacement garage to include store and plant room

Cllr Khan’s report stated:

This application seeks to replace an existing garage in the grounds of a derelict cottage that has had permission granted conditionally (0020/14).
The garage is constructed of concrete block with a flat asphalt roof and is in a poor state of repair. The application wishes to replace the existing structure with a natural stone walled building, with a pitched natural slate roof and timber framed windows and doors. There is also the inclusion of a bat box to encourage roosting.
This is a sensible proposal that will complement the existing application and enhance the area both visually and environmentally. I therefore propose that Ashburton Town Council support this application. This was seconded by Cllr Distin. All in favour.

SUPPORT

15/01796 – Hill view Farm, Pitley Road Cllr Slater
Agricultural Storage building

Cllr Slater reported:

The shed was for the storage of machinery and equipment. It measures 9m x 23m on a plot measuring roughly 4 acres. There are no houses which overlook the plot of land and an adjoining field has a building of a similar size. It is proposed to build the shed with timber clad sides and a box profile roof similar to the one next door. I propose

Ashburton Town Council support this application. This was seconded by Cllr Dennis. All in favour.

SUPPORT

0322/15 – NatWest Bank, 19 East Street

Cllr Baker

Removal of ATM, Night Safe and Natwest branded signage
(report copied to councillors)

Cllr Baker's report stated:

Natwest Bank in East Street is a grade 11 listed building built in 1891 as The Devon and Cornwall Bank. The listing notes that the frontage is Granite.

This application was received by DNP on or about 30th June 2015 AFTER the works had been done so is a retrospective application by The Royal Bank of Scotland, who own Natwest bank, for removal of ATM, night safe and signage.

I note that no pre application advice was sought, according to the application form, even though the application states "The Bank would be happy to assist and receive advice from local authorities in order to PROCEED with the work."

This is somewhat confusing as is the statement in the application. "It is proposed to fill the ATM and night safe apertures with materials to match the original construction"

After a fruitless time attempting to contact the agent to query, until 4.45pm today (14.7.15) when Martin O'Neill the project manager for all RBS Banks' buildings contacted me. He apologised for the works being done prior to planning permission and assured me that the granite would be put in place instead of concrete screed. However, he did not seem aware of planning procedure for listed buildings and buildings in Dartmoor National Park.

- a) Why work had been done before permission had been given
- b) Why the apertures were now covered with a concrete screed which in my opinion looks incongruous and unacceptable at the frontage of a listed building and not as stated in the application.

Therefore I would recommend that Ashburton Town Council take a neutral view to this Planning application with a recommendation that the applicant, Royal Bank of Scotland consider that they have been discourteous in their procedures in that work that has been done is unacceptable in appearance and without recourse to the planning protocols. Also, a copy of this report should be sent to RBS's head office.

Cllr Irens asked whether it would be better for the town council to object if they wished DNP to take notice of the town council. Cllr Baker stated that she had been told by DNP planning that they could not object. The clerk stated that as this is on the form the town council can object. Cllr Distin stated that possibly NatWest had gone ahead for security reasons.

Cllr Baker's recommendation that the town council give a neutral view was seconded by Cllr Ashford. All in favour.

NEUTRAL VIEW

Grants of conditional planning permission - NOTED

0240/15 – Dart Vale, Hele

Replacement of existing garages with one double garage

Chuley Road Masterplan Update

A letter had been received from Stephen Belli and copied to councillors. This was duly noted.

108/15 Letter from Ashburton Chamber of Trade requesting Ashburton Town Council to maintain and install Christmas lights

The clerk read the letter received.

Cllr Brewer stated that this should go to the Finance committee for discussion. He also asked that someone from the Chamber of Trade be asked to attend the meeting. He stated that in the last eight years the town council had contributed in excess of £6,500 towards the Christmas Lights. Cllr Ashford stated that he believed the Chamber of Trade would struggle to have the manpower to do anything this year.

109/15 Devon County Council Report

There was no report.

110/15 District Council Report

Cllr Nutley reported:

On Monday 22nd June I attended on behalf of the Chairman and Mayor Cllr Peter Brewer, and along with Cllr Dennis, the raising of the Armed Forces Flag at TDC Offices. This was the start of a week of celebrations and a chance to show support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community.

I attended along with Cllr Dennis my first Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. this was to discuss the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document. It contains detailed advice and direction on the implementation of a number of affordable housing related policies. This will have to go to the Executive Committee for discussion and to full council for adoption.

As you may be aware, we come within the DNPA whose affordable housing SPD was adopted in May 2014.

Teignbridge District Council are setting up two further committees, A Car Parking Task Group is about to be established to look at the management of all Teignbridge Car Parks, including charging policy, and A Rail Line Research Group is also about to be formed. It is proposed to look at all aspects of the rail line, it's security, it's options etc.

Cllr Dennis reported:

On the 9th July he had attended the Buckfastleigh Complaints Forum and on the 13th July Regulatory and Appeals Committee. He wanted to give thanks to Gilpins for their generosity to take Bullivers through the town.

111/15 Councillors' Reports on attendance at sub-committees and meetings of other organisations

Cllr Khan reported on the Bank Youth Project:

I attended the AGM and the Management Committee meeting of the Bank Youth Project on Monday 6th & 13th July respectively.

General AGM business was conducted and the Management group have been reinstated to conduct the business of BYP

A Funding Working Group has been formed and now has Andrew Prince as its Chair person.

Attendance continues to be good and looks to be very encouraging for the on-going future. The good work in the Back Yard continues and is nearing completion-lots of willing hands make for light work!

Sadly Corinne Webb, the BYP Administrator, has handed in her notice-a suitable replacement is currently being sought .

There will be a short break over the summer period; the next meeting will take place on 14th September at 6pm.

Cllr Ashford stated that not attended a Chamber of Trade meeting this month.

112/15 Correspondence

- i. A letter of thanks had been received from the Museum for the £500 grant.
- ii. A letter from a resident of Leicester regarding the Railway (copied to councillors).
Noted.

113/15 Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Cllr Nutley stated that the Dolbeare Business Park temporary access ran out in August and he felt that the town council needed to put pressure on DNP to issue an enforcement order.

RESOLVE: CLERK TO PLACE ON PLANNING AGENDA.

- Cllr Nutley was concerned about the drains and gulleys. He had shown photos of them full and they were only going to be cleaned once a year now and Ashburton was timetabled for February. He was concerned for residents in flood areas. He requested that the town council write to Devon County Council. The clerk had written to DCC and was awaiting a response.

RESOLVE: CLERK TO PLACE ON GP AGENDA.

- Cllr Dennis stated that drains is South West Highways.

- Cllr Daw stated that as part of the Emergency Plan the town council had been requested to notify the authorities of any blocked drains and they would deal with them.
- Cllr Daw had asked the clerk to get the bus stop roof repaired. The clerk stated this was in hand.
- Cllr Daw stated that one of the Cattle Market flats was being advertised with an evening parking permit and requested that TDC District Councillors look into this and report back to the town council.
- Cllr Daw stated that leaving Newton Abbot on the Ashburton Road, near Seale Hayne, there is no sign stating that the 30mph restriction has ended.
- The clerk requested that discussions re town crier be placed on the GP agenda.

RESOLVE: CLERK TO PLACE ON GP AGENDA.

- Cllr Slater stated that the grass verges near Dolbeare from opposite the cattery to the flyover are so overgrown that school children could not see when crossing. The clerk stated that verge cutting had been suspended unless it caused blocked vision. Cllr Slater stated that this case did.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 8.34pm.

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CHAIRMAN