



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 March 2016 AT 7.45PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllr Slater, chairman
Cllrs Brewer, Giles, Irens, Baker, Hitchcock, Daw. Also Cllr Distin, Ashford.

In attendance: The clerk and 4 members of the public.

010/16GP Apologies

Cllr Nutley (Unwell) Cllr Dennis (On leave) Acceptance of these apologies proposed Cllr Brewer Seconded Cllr Baker. Carried

011/16GP 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 wished to speak.

012/16GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

013/16GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 27 January 2016

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

014/16GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 27 January 2016

There were no matters raised.

015/16GP General discussion regarding a letter received from Ashburton Youth Football Club, regarding The Ashmoor Centre. (Copies of letter issued to Councillors)

The Chairman set aside standing orders to allow a representative from the Ashburton Youth Football Club to read a statement:

The Statement was:

Ashburton Youth Football club was formed in 2010 and have been using the facilities provided by Ashmoor. The 3 G Pitch that we use was financed by a grant

from the Football Foundation Grant, and was subject to a tie with local teams namely Ashburton & Bovey Tracey Youth Football Clubs.

This tie resulted in preferential rates, priority bookings and no cancellation fees.

In time we also negotiated a secure store room, to store kit and the usual accumulation of accessories and in return allow the centre to use football posts purchased by our club. Whilst contracts promised by the centre never materialised, we have records of minutes taken from meetings with the centre, Chaired by Chris Daniels, who is still employed by the centre.

These meetings took place every 3 months and referred to the Football Foundation grant and the tie to our club.

Unfortunately we have to report that the level of support offered by the Centre over the last 2 years has dropped significantly and despite our best efforts the communication can only be described as poor.

Our original training time was 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm on a Wednesday night, this allowed sufficient time for training to be provided for all the children who attend.

This had been in place since the conception of the club and maintained for numerous years. As agreed we would re-confirm our booking for the following season on the day requested, and would in fact ensure that we were always the first team to register.

When we submitted our application for 2013 – 2014 we were advised that we had lost our training time as it had been allocated to another club, when pressed further we were told that there application was yet to be received but a decision had been made by the centre and that we would have to consider another day and time and to make matters worse could only be for 1hour not the 2 hours we had originally

The only times made available were :-5.00 pm –6.00 pm, Tuesday

5.30 pm - 6.30 pm Wednesday

5.30pm-6.30pm Thursday.

We had no choice but to accept these times and as a result have to ask our coaches, who are volunteers to give up three nights a week rather than one.

To compound this problem our coaches are also struggling to get to the training sessions on time and are constantly having to request time off work. This is simply too much to ask of volunteers who give up their time to serve the community. We subsequently discovered that our training time had been allocated to Exeter City U 15 as their home pitch and Junior Pioneer League Teams.

Neither teams are frequented by local children or offer the opportunity for girls. This is wrong and highlights the elitist ethos of those clubs. Ashburton Youth football club are fully inclusive of gender, age & ability providing a positive experience for over 150 children from 5 Years to 18 years, boys and girls. It supports the local community of Ashburton and surrounding villages and with the hard work and commitment of volunteers and the support from you the town council is an asset that needs protection.

Unless we can persuade the centre to provide a 2 hour session starting no earlier than 6.00 pm there is a distinct possibility that the club will fold. We are extremely nervous of rocking the boat with the centre at the risk of making matters worse, but would ask you the town council for any guidance or support. We appreciate the centre is a business, but with any business there should always come moral obligation to support the local community, especially when one considers the nature of said business. End of Statement.

The Chairman re-instated Standing Orders.

Councillor Daw commented that he was very disappointed to hear this statement he felt that South Dartmoor Community College should be supporting Ashburton projects such as The Ashburton Youth Football Team especially in view of the number of Ashburton Youth this club is supporting but yet it appears that Ashburton have no say in this which is not acceptable. It would appear that clubs outside of Ashburton appear to get priority. I believe Buckland Athletic (Adults) has two dates and Ashburton AFC (Adults) can't get any although they have used it for many years.

Cllr Distin stated that it would appear that since the Academy has taken over these problems have been created.

Cllr Irens commented that this would appear to highlight residents' concerns that have been expressed to her.

Cllr Brewer suggested that contact be made with Cllr Khan to try and ascertain what is going on and he would speak with Cllr Khan and obtain an update for the next Full Council meeting. He felt that it is not reasonable with a membership of 150 that the club cannot get some support from the Academy.

NOTE: Clerk to place on next Full Council agenda for an update on the situation.

016/16GP General discussion re Air Ambulance Helipad

It was generally felt by committee members that the most suitable place would be at the grounds of South Dartmoor Academy and the Clerk would contact Cllr Khan to ask her if she could make some enquiries into this.

NOTE: Clerk to contact Cllr Khan

017/16GP Correspondence

- a. Letter from a resident concerning expenditure on Fireworks for the Queens 90th Celebration week-end. (Copies issued to Councillors) The Clerk stated that he had responded to the resident stating that this was being organised by an independent group and not the Town Council and no Tax Payers money was being used for this event. Clerk also forwarded a copy of the correspondence to the group dealing with the celebrations. **NOTED**

018/16GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- It was noted that a search type light had been used for the Late Shopping Evening on occasions and questioned whether or not this light could be used in some way during the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration week-end.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.12pm.

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CHAIRMAN