



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllr Baker, deputy chairman
Cllrs Giles, Brewer, Slater, Nutley, Parker-Khan. Also Cllr Ashford

In attendance: The clerk, deputy town clerk and two members of the public

024/17GP Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Hitchcock (unwell) and Cllr Irens (dispensation). Acceptance of this apology was proposed by Cllr Baker seconded by Cllr Ashford. Carried

025/17GP 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.

The Postmaster made a statement:

Good evening we appreciate you taking the time to receive an update from Ashburton Post Office, proud to be the home of Ashburton Library. There has been much commentary on social media and further support for the branch for which we are extremely humbled.

We completely respect customers have a choice and we ask for everyone's support in promoting Ashburton Post Office Every customer we serve makes a big difference to the sustainability of the branch and the values we have to make a positive difference to Ashburton.

Our ethos of contributing and participating relies on the continued support of residents, businesses and organisations making a conscious decision to choose Ashburton Post Office.

Customers can deposit cash, cheques obtain balances and withdraw cash in the branch six days a week and we trade for 54 hours a week each of which sustains the branch. The ATM is available 24/7.

We worked with and achieved with the truly outstanding support and community spirited E&JW Glendinning who have supported independent businesses by funding the change

giving service which has meant businesses don't have to travel to Newton Abbot and or Totnes which would have been a significant burden on business which was the proposal offered.

We have provided stability to the most vulnerable in our town to ensure we provide a service to ensure there is no issue which could have a negative effect had we not assisted.

We looking forward to welcoming visitors who make a positive difference to businesses in Ashburton and promoting the post office and other traders is key to the sustainability of our great town.

We respect the need for the gas pipe works and like many retailers trading conditions remain challenging at this time encouraging and we are grateful to the Bank Youth Project trustees and the members of the BYP who will support Ashburton Chamber of Trade to distribute Ashburton Open For Business leaflets to every house.

We need your help and support please to work with us and further assist in raising awareness to ensuring the sustainability of the Post Office and the values we have which make a positive difference.

We are totally committed to Ashburton and supporting residents, businesses and organisations. Customers making a conscious decision to make transactions at Ashburton Post Office allow us to support Ashburton. We value your ongoing support to allow us to continue to contribute to Ashburton in a positive way whilst sustaining the branch.

We will provide more information if you require.

Cllr Dennis entered the meeting.

026/17GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

027/17GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 22 February 2017

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

028/17GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 22 February 2017

There were no matters raised.

029/17GP Mill Meadow grass area ownership investigation

The clerk stated this was bought up by Cllr Brewer and he wished to investigate the ownership. This would involve contacting the land registry and doing a search. It was proposed by Cllr Parker-Khan, seconded by Cllr Baker that the clerk makes the necessary investigations, which may cost up to £29. All in favour.

Recommend: Clerk to make investigations into Mill Meadow ownership

030/17GP Promotion of post office community scheme

The clerk stated that Lloyd's Bank is now parking a vehicle as a mobile bank in Kingsbridge Lane Short-Stay Car Park every Friday. The town council had not been informed of this. Councillors discussed this in detail and Cllr Dennis would ask Tanya at Teignbridge Council if permission had been sought.

The clerk stated that Ashburton Post Office had requested permission to place a banner above the Information Centre windows to advertising the community contribution made by the Post Office for each transaction. Cllr Baker proposed that the town council give permission for the banner, this was seconded by Cllr Parker-Khan. All in favour.

031/17GP Correspondence

- i. Notice of rural skip service on 25 November. NOTED.
- ii. Graffiti in Ashburton. The clerk stated that the abusive graffiti in Love Lane had been removed by Teignbridge Council. The other three areas are at the rear of Love Lane in Sands School and on other private walls. Teignbridge were trying to contact the owners to ask them to remove it.
- iii. Replacement bin in North Street. The clerk stated that this had been damaged by a car and a replacement would be installed in the first week of April. The old bin could not be removed until then as it was held on bolts and would be a trip hazard.

032/17GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Cllr Brewer stated that the river had been cleared near Mill Meadow and piled neatly near the grassed area at the rear of the Victoria Inn.
- Cllr Slater stated that the workers on the WW Utilities gas works did not seem to be doing any additional hours to get the work done as quickly as possible and businesses would be asking for compensation for loss of business. The clerk stated that he had emailed Cllr Barker, WW Utilities etc. Cllr Barker had emailed WW Utilities and Devon Highways.
- The clerk stated that enforcement officers had been ticketing vehicles in the closed off section of East Street and he requested that Highways that they show some leniency during this time.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

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CHAIRMAN