



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY,
9 MAY 2017 AT 7PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
TOWN HALL**

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

In attendance: The clerk and the deputy clerk. Also one member of the press and eight members of the public

071/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Parker-Khan who was on annual leave. Acceptance of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Nutley. All in favour. Also apologies from Cllr Barker, PC Dudley and the Portreeve

072/17 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, Mr S Rogers made a statement:

Chair, Town Councillors

Thank you for taking the time receive an update

On Monday April 24 a routine system update on the ATM did not go to plan and the cash point went out of service for a complete system rebuild. This was completely out of our control and the engineers remained at the branch throughout to undertake this.

We are very aware of our responsibility since the last bank closed and we take this very seriously. We took the decision to extend opening until 11pm on the Monday and re open at 6am on the Tuesday where we able to serve valued customers.

There was real justified concern with the last bank closing there would be a real risk of residents, businesses and organisations not being able to access cash. We invoked and communicated our contingency plan which was the right thing to do.

We were overwhelmed by the positive messages which make us feel humbled and honoured to be your Ashburton Post Office, proud to be the home of Ashburton Library.

There are communities without a fulltime or no Post Office and now losing its last bank and library which is having a significant negative effect on communities and its residents, businesses and organisations...

We remain totally committed to Ashburton and supporting Residents, Businesses and Organisations who sustain the branch trading.

We ask you Chair and Town Councillors for your continued support and ask everyone to tell someone to make 1 more transaction at the branch.

We are proud of our ethos and values that see us making a difference and sustain career for Ashburton own Joanna Giles and contribute & participate in Ashburton unlike some who turn up and just operate To date we have raised £1250 in the 7 months which sees us contribute 2p for every ATM cash withdrawal.

Chair , Town Councillors , last week Wales and West Utilities made comment in the media that the opening of East Street during the Easter holiday break prevented them from working over that weekend

We believe this to be factually incorrect and Wales and West don't work weekends with the exception of monitoring for gas leaks.

There is a suggestion in the community that Wales and West are approximately 2 weeks behind schedule and some of this delay is apportioned to the opening of the road for the Easter period

We have contacted Wales and West through their on line complaint process and haven't received a reply

We were advised by a Devon County Council officer that we would receive a visit from a Wales and West Representative we haven't received a visit.

Wales and West made further comment they would be undertaking weekend working, we requested an update on this from Devon County who we have advised us they now have senior officer looking into our enquiries Wales and West have not had the courtesy to respond too .

To conclude we need the Town Councils support to request a meeting with senior Wales and West Utilities representatives so they can demonstrate their commitment to getting the gas works back on programme.

Wales and West promote their high levels of customer service on this occasion I believe they have fell short of the standard I would expect.

We now await an update from Devon County Council who is investigating my complaint.

We all respect and understand the gas pipe replacement works have to done in a safe and compliant manner protecting their work colleagues, residents, businesses and properties.

We have worked hard on promoting Ashburton is Open for Business in the media.

Chair, Town Councillors Business is witnessing a decline on valued residents and visitors making the trip into Ashburton and this is causing trading decline in our shops

We need to continue with the message Ashburton is Open for Business.

073/17 Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

074/17 Outgoing chairman's monthly report

Saturday 15th April I attended the reopening of Churches Ironmongers Shop which has been taken over by new owners. This was also attended by Cllr Sarah Parker-Khan and the Master Bailiff Cllr Jenny Giles. We had the task of encouraging the public to visit the shop by offering them cake and a glass of wine. I also had the pleasure of drawing the winner of the Chamber of Trade's Easter Trail Competition. This was won by Sophie Norman, but thanks has to go to Cllr Dennis who organised the event on behalf of the Chamber of Trade.

Thursday 26th April I had the pleasure of opening the Rainbow Tao Temple, which is part of the Rainbow school and is situated at Creek Farm, Pitley Hill. The temple is a very impressive eight sided octagon and was built by the students. The Rainbow Tai Chi Kung School concentrates on the Heart, Body, Mind and Spirit Education. The students carried out demonstrations of the various moves in helping you relax the mind and body, something I think I could do with after the last few months pounding the streets.

This was a pleasant evening with many of the students singing and playing the piano and guitars.

075/17 To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 April 2017

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

076/17 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting 11 April 2017

There were no matters arising.

077/17 Town council election to fill current vacancy

The clerk stated that there would be an election for the councillor vacancy and closing date for nominations was Thursday 11 May 2017.

078/17 Philip Vogel – re Rotary Club planting of crocii

Thank you for giving me the opportunity on behalf of The Rotary Club of Ashburton Buckfastleigh to address you this evening about Rotary's 'Purple4Polio' campaign.

In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus programme, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative formed in 1988, is a public private partnership which includes Rotary, the WHO, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

To date Rotary has contributed approx £1.28Billion' and countless volunteer hours to immunise 2.5billion children in 122 countries.

You will doubtless have read in the Mid Devon Advertiser about the experience of one of our Club Member's Rtn. Peter Cross who recently went to Bhiwardi in India to take part in a mass immunisation day. Additionally in our MDA column Rtn. Diana Fitch wrote about the campaign to eradicate Polio. In Sunday's on- line Guardian there was also a report about the failure to eradicate Polio in Nigeria because of the armed insurgencies.

A country needs to be free from a case of Polio for three years, and currently Nigeria together with Pakistan and Afghanistan still need to be cleared.

For Rotary the campaign goes on. One way in which Rotary would like to continue to raise awareness is through its Purple4Polio project.

Rotary Clubs have been asked to raise awareness by planting 10 million Purple Crocus Corms across Great Britain and Ireland.

The Rotary Club of Ashburton Buckfastleigh would like to play their part and have ordered 5k corms, which we would like to plant between Ashburton and Buckfastleigh. The cost of purchase is being born by the Club, but sponsorship would of course be gratefully accepted - we could even buy more.

If the Council would be so minded the Club would like to suggest planting these Corms around the Town and in particular at an appropriate spot along Bullivers Way. The Club would envisage that this would be a community planting and invite the town and community groups, the school, even Councillors to participate. It could for example, (and I haven't discussed this with those involved) be part of another event- such as a litter pick, or morning of the Mediaeval Fayre or Food Fair.

And why Purple4Polio - because each immunised child is marked with a purple dye on their little finger.

Councillors does the concept of planting the corms in and around Council owned assets meet with your approval?

May I also take this opportunity on behalf of the Club to thank the Council for their continued support of the Memory Cafe.

Cllr Nutley proposed that the town council take this forward, this was seconded by Cllr Giles. All in favour.

079/17

Police report

In the absence of PC Dudley, the clerk read the report:

71 incidents were recorded. 13 of these concerned the A38 . Another 10 were in the Town and surrounding area. These included an incident where the driver of a car died at the wheel near Summerhill on the evening of 29th April.

3 incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported. These included reports of noisy groups of people in East Street at Midnight on 14th April and at the bus stop in West Street in the early hours of 30th April.

17 crimes were recorded. These included -

4 offences of common assault

3 crimes of criminal damage

3 thefts - all thefts of foodstuffs from a shop in the Town Centre.

1 Burglary and 1 offence of attempted burglary were recorded. Both were at Kenwyn, the disused County Council home, on 17th and 18th April.

Arrests made included that of an 18yr old male wanted for firearms offences in Dorset. A local man was also arrested in connection with a serious hit and run collision on 25th April.

I am due to hold a Police Surgery at the Information Centre from 10-11am on Tuesday 9th May. I can be contacted at Conway House Ashburton via the central no. 101.

The totally confidential Crimestoppers no. 0800 555111 can be used to pass information to the Police. The Neighbourhood Team can also be contacted by e-mail Teignbridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

080/17 Finance Committee Chairman's report (April)

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Distin proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Dennis. All in favour.

081/17 External audit governance

It was proposed by Cllr Irens that the Audit Governance was signed, this was seconded by Cllr Giles. All in favour. Cllr Irens signed the external audit governance.

082/17 External audit accounts

It was proposed by Cllr Irens that the External Audit Year-End Accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Daw. All in favour.

083/17 Planning Committee chairman's report (April)

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

Planning applications for consideration

17/00981 – Pitley Farm, Whistley Hill

Cllr Ashford

Certificate of lawfulness for existing use for storage and breaking of cars and commercial vehicles for resale of parts

Cllr Ashford's report stated:

The application is for a Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use for storage, and breaking of cars and commercial vehicles for resale of parts.

There is proof of the above usage over the last 20 years.

My site visit indicated that the site had not been used for agricultural use for a very long time.

At the top end of the site there is a levelled out area where there are four old lorry butts for storage, and the footprint of a building.

Although the access to the site is not good, as it has been used for this purpose for so long, I recommend Ashburton town council supports this application. This was seconded by Cllr Ashford. All in favour.

SUPPORT

0191/17 – Cuddyford Meadow, Rew Lane

Cllr Daw

Temporary permission for the use of land for siting and residential use of a mobile home for a rural worker for three years

Cllr Daw's report stated:

I attended site at 10.00hrs on Saturday 29th April and spoke to the applicant.

This is an application for the temporary siting of a mobile home for 3 years for the use of a rural worker.

Attached was a detailed 31 page document produced by a Planning Consultant which dealt with the Dartmoor National Park Development Plan in particular COR1, COR2, COR15, DMD23 and DMD28 and to advice contained in the English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

The mobile home would replace an existing large caravan and provide suitable accommodation for the applicant and her family.

This is a dilution of a previous application 0367/16 which included the Mobile Home, Horticulture, Livestock and Glamping (Yurts)

Although well screened in the summer the Mobile Home would have a visual impact for the neighbours in the winter. The applicant has planted some evergreen screening bushes to the rear of the existing caravan and there is also a large polly tunnel which has camouflage netting in the winter.

There are no problems with parking or vehicular access to the site.

I have spoken to the neighbours who strongly object to this application on the basis that they felt that a further application for a permanent structure would follow.

When asked the applicant stated this was not her intention.

I have spoken to the DNP Planning officer who confirmed that this application has to satisfy the concerns expressed on the original application and after the 3 years produce evidence that the business is viable.

I am concerned that Ashburton Town Council doesn't have the expertise to answer all the issues identified in the attached report so I propose that we give a neutral view.

Councillors discussed the proposal and application and Cllr Distin it was very tight for around that corner, they could go for a permanent structure, there were objections from neighbours. He proposed that the town council object to the application, this was seconded by Cllr Ashford. A vote was taken and six were in favour of objection and five against. Therefore the second proposal to object was carried by majority. All in favour.

OBJECT

0198/17 – Linden Lea, 26 Eastern Road

Cllr Baker

Erection of side extension and tiles roof over existing conservatory

Cllr Baker's report stated:

26, Eastern Road is a detached dormer bungalow probably constructed in the 1950s or 60s. The bungalow is constructed of block and brick with white PVCU double glazed windows. Applicant proposes to extend a utility room to the West of the dwelling and extend the porch on the North side facilitating reconfiguration of the ground floor rooms and replace the ridged plastic roofing to the conservatory with a tiled roof. Applicant proposes to convert the existing kitchen into a lounge and make the lounge and conservatory into a kitchen dining room.

I visited the site and discussed the planning application with the applicant's partner on the morning of Friday 5th May 2017.

The proposed building works do not increase the building's footprint by more than 30%. The applicant has discussed the works with the two neighbours who can view the alterations and they have no objections. Properties on Eastern Road are a mismatch of different styles of bungalows or two storied modern houses some with modern extensions. The relatively modest remodelling of this bungalow would therefore, I believe, be acceptable in these environs.

I propose that Ashburton Town Council supports this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Daw. All in favour.

SUPPORT

0115/17- St John Ambulance Hall

Cllr Baker

Conversion to 3 dwellings revised plan

Cllr Baker's report stated:

I reported on the original application to convert St.Johns Ambulance hall into three dwellings in March and Ashburton Town Council supported my proposal to object to this application.

The applicant has now submitted an amended application which has obscured glass to the 2 ground floor windows nearest the churchyard on the East elevation and

obscured glass to the half window which overlooks a private garden on the West side.

Although this may preserve the privacy of some of the closest neighbours these amendments do not address the basic problem of overdevelopment with no vehicular parking provided to the three proposed dwellings. It is also feasible that in the future these obscured window panes would be replaced by clear glass.

This site has pedestrian access only and the proposal is for 3 dwellings with a total of 6 bedrooms which possibly may lead to the need for 6 or more car parking spaces. I believe that ATC original objections still stand and propose that Ashburton Town Council objects to this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Nutley. A vote was taken. There were seven in favour and four against. Carried by majority.

OBJECT

Grants of conditional planning permission. NOTED

0118/17 – Hooks Farm, Sigford

Replacement extension and raising of roof

084/17 Discussion re Old Outdoor Experience site

The clerk stated that there had been an open day run by The Bailey Partnership.

Cllr Baker had obtained report on the trees on the site.

There had been no plans received to date.

The clerk suggested that this be placed on the Planning agenda for further discussion.

Clerk to place on planning agenda

085/17 General Purpose committee Chairman's report (April)

There had been no meeting in April

086/17 Christmas Lights sub committee (April)

Cllr Dennis summarised the minutes and proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by Cllr Giles. All in favour.

087/17 Devon County Council (DCC) Report

There was no report

088/17 Teignbridge District Council (TDC) report

Cllr Dennis stated that there would be the AGM on the following Monday to elect the chairman and vice-chairman.

Cllr Nutley stated that there would be a licensing application coming from Ashburton shortly.

089/17 Councillors' Reports on attendance at sub-committees and meetings of other organisations

There were no reports.

090/17 Correspondence

- i. Gas Works Letter from Stuart Rodgers. The clerk stated that the works would be delayed for two weeks due to issues with pipes at the bottom of Roborough Lane.
- ii. Letter from Buckfastleigh Town Council. The clerk read the letter regarding car park charges on Dartmoor. The clerk was requested to place this on the GP agenda.
Clerk to place on GP agenda
- iii. Letter Ashburton Swimming Pool. The letter stated that they were very grateful for the lottery money and apologised for not attending the meeting to collect the cheque.
- iv. Letter from Ashburton Museum thanking the town council for the lottery money.
- v. Letter from Autumn Club thanking the town council for the lottery money.

091/17 Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Cllr Baker stated that as a resident of Ashburton she could confirm that Wales and West had not been working at the weekends. She understood that the team had been offered weekend work but with no increase in pay. She stated that the town council should send a letter stating that statements made publicly were incorrect.
Clerk to place on GP agenda
- Cllr Daw asked about an email received regarding a cycle path. The clerk stated that this had been placed on the Finance agenda for discussion.
- Cllr Daw stated that the National Grid had told him they would inform the town council of works on minor roads. A road had been closed at Ipplepen past the Rising Sun and a letter should be sent asking why the town council had not been informed. Cllr Distin stated that the fire service had been informed but perhaps the town council had not as it is not in its parish.
Clerk to place on GP agenda
- The clerk stated that Mary Dent had been going far and wide delivering the new town guide and thanked her for this. He would like to send her a letter of thanks.
Clerk to place on GP agenda
- Cllr Irens stated that she would like a committee set up to deal with Traffic management.
Clerk to place on GP agenda

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

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CHAIRMAN