



# Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs Baker, Brewer, Nutley, Dennis, Distin, Parker-Khan, Giles, Slater, Irens, Vogel

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

**032/18GP Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Daw and Ashford who had previous engagements. Acceptance of the apologies was proposed by Cllr Baker. This was seconded by Cllr Distin. All in favour.

**033/18GP Election of chairman**

Cllr Parker-Khan proposed Cllr Baker, this was seconded by Cllr Giles. All in favour.

**034/18GP Election of deputy chairman**

Cllr Nutley proposed Cllr Brewer, this was seconded by Cllr Parker-Khan. All in favour.

**035/18GP 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.

**036/18GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**037/18GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 25 April 2018**

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

**038/18GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 25 April 2018**

There were no matters arising.

**039/17GP Discussion on town warden/ranger**

The clerk stated that Pete Large is calculating the costs of appointing a warden/ranger. Training and funding is available for Devon County Council.

Cllr Parker-Khan stated that perhaps it would be possible to incorporate potholes into the duties.

Cllr Baker proposed that the town council aim to have a ranger, this was seconded by Cllr Irens. All in favour.

#### **040/18GP Discussion: Stage Coach Services**

Residents had been upset that the 88 bus is being reduced from one hour to every thirty minutes. This had been put on using Section 106 money from Lemon Grove. There had been no necessity to bring this additional service to Ashburton but the bus company had trialled it and now found that there are not enough passengers to warrant its continuation. Cllr Vogel stated that it is County's responsibility regarding Highways money. He also stated that residents are unhappy about early morning bus times to pick up the no 12 in Newton Abbot to get to Torquay for appointments before 10am.

The clerk was to investigate bus timings and bring back to the next GP meeting.

#### **041/18GP Potholes**

The slip road had still not been repaired. The clerk and several councillors have reported this and other potholes on the Devon County Council website. The clerk stated that Highways teams have been pulled off other jobs to increase the amount of potholes repaired. Cllr Distin stated that there is a pothole outside Moor Dental Care that is very bad and Cllr Barker had said he would contact Highways about this but nothing has yet been done.

The clerk was asked to follow up on the potholes.

Cllr Irens stated that some towns are moving services to under pavements instead of roads.

#### **042/18GP Request for 20mph speed limit**

Cllr Nutley stated that the town council should push for this in town. Cllr Brewer said that this had been requested before. Cllr Vogel stated that a temporary sign could be put up showing people's speed. Cllr Nutley said the 20mph should be from Glendinnings to Pear Tree. Cllr Dennis said that this would not be done perhaps start at the Golden Lion. Cllr Vogel stated that PC Dudley has a speed camera. Cllr Nutley stated that he had tried to organise a community speed check but additional volunteers are needed for this.

Cllr Irens said that this should be brought to the next Traffic Management meeting for discussion.

#### **043/18GP Community awards**

Cllr Nutley said that this should be aimed at volunteers within the community. Cllr Parker-Khan stated it might become a popularity contest and some may feel snubbed if they did not receive it.

Cllr Brewer stated that there is already a community award in place which is given out by the town council and this had been set up for all members of the community not just young people.

The clerk was requested to readvertise the current community award.

**044/18GP Discussion town diary/Information Hub – coordination of events**

Cllr Brewer felt that no all organisations in the town were aware of how events are coordinated via the town diary. The clerk stated that there is a new Information Hub Facebook page and events calendar currently being set up. It is in the early stages.

Cllr Irens stated that Ashburton Arts and the Swimming Pool be invited to a meeting to make them aware of how these work.

The clerk believed that inviting Sean Wilson, who is organising the new Information Hub, should be invited to a meeting of the GP committee.

**045/18GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.**

- Cllr Irens stated that an article had appeared in the Mid-Devon Advertiser and The Moorlander. The article was by a local businessman and member of Teignbridge Council. The article stated that business is flaky in town and shops are closing. Cllr Distin stated that the town council should speak to the person concerned to see what he had actually said. Cllr Parker-Khan stated she had heard a lot of negativity about trading and lot footfall in the town. Cllr Vogel stated that TDC are responsible for economic development and they should be contacted.
- Cllr Brewer stated that there is a sign post lying on the ground near Pear Tree. The clerk has reported this to Highways.
- Cllr Giles stated that the grate is still missing outside Churchs. The clerk stated that Highways has passed to the contractor to replace immediately.

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

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CHAIRMAN