



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllr Slater, chairman
Cllrs Brewer, Giles, Nutley, Baker, Dennis, Daw, Hitchcock, Khan, Distin.

In attendance: The clerk

068/15GP Apologies

There were no apologies received.

069/15GP 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.

A resident spoke on behalf of the Ambulance Hall committee and thanked everyone for their support. It was noted that the Ambulance Hall with the town council's help is now listed as a community asset. She wished to apologise for all the additional work to clerk's office regarding obtaining an official valuation from the District Valuer. She had thought that by requesting this they could when passing offer a valuation but this is not the case and the clerk has received a contract to obtain such figures and this was not the intention, therefore the request is withdrawn. Andrew Prince is now negotiating on behalf of the group so hopefully progress will be made but as regards the request for a valuation this is a non starter.

070/15GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

071/15GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 28 October 2015

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

072/15GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 28 October 2015

There were no matters raised.

073/15GP General discussion regarding trees in St Andrew's churchyard

The clerk noted that this was requested as an agenda item by Cllr Nutley. Since then, the clerk has received an email notifying him that Mr Distin, who is the Inspector of Trees for the Courts Leet and Baron, had also been dealing with the issue and reported back that all overhanging branches have been cut down and removed. Therefore, this

does not now create a problem. Cllr Nutley stated he had spoken to the owner as well and confirmed work has been done.

074/15GP General discussion regarding recent events in Paris

It was generally felt that a letter of condolence should be sent to Cleder and the French Government forwarding the town council's regret at the events in Paris. It was proposed by Cllr Distin that letters be sent, seconded by Cllr Khan. All in favour.

RECOMMEND: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Brewer and write letters

075/15GP General discussion regarding terms of engagement regarding the Ambulance Hall

The clerk stated that having heard from the resident there is no need to continue with this further and he was going to suggest to the town council that there was no way they should be signing any contract for third parties as this was an issue for the Ambulance Hall Committee and not the town council. Also, the amounts of charges quoted would not be acceptable due to the financial restraints of the town council.

076/15GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Cllr Slater commented that he has been approached by a couple of members of the public regarding comments made recently in the local press. He felt all councillors must be aware when making statements to the media that they identify very clearly that any comment made is a personal opinion. The clerk stated that the only comments that should be made on behalf of the town council are those that have come before the town council and adopted accordingly and minuted. Cllr Dennis stated that the problem is anyone making any comments does not get to see what they are going to print before it appears in the paper. The clerk commented if a town councillor, wished to make a statement there is no reason why they cannot ask for a proof from the press etc, that way they cannot be misquoted but if this is a personal comment this must be made very clear.
- It was noted that there would be an article in the Western Morning News about Ashburton's Late Night Shopping.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 7.46pm.

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CHAIRMAN