

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2008 AT  
7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Gill, Chairman; Cllr Brewer, Deputy Chairman; Cllrs Posner, Pugh, Richards, Miller, Hitchcock, Baker, Slater, Distin and the clerk. Also several members of the public present.

**013/08GP Apologies**

There were no apologies received.

**014/08GP Minutes of the previous meeting**

These were signed by the chairman as a true record. Carried unanimously.

**015/08GP Matters arising from the previous minutes**

004/08GP – Parking issues. The clerk confirmed he had received a letter from Devon County Council in connection with a request from the Chamber of Trade to consider chicaned parking in North Street and narrowing the pavement. The letter stated that they regretted to inform the town council that the suggestion to reduce the existing pavement and introduce chicaned allocated parking does not meet the objectives of the DLT, therefore they could not justify allocating funds to such a scheme. With increasing car ownership, the demand for residential parking space on street often exceeds the capacity of the road space available. However, it has never been the responsibility of the County Council as the Highways authority to provide car parking for those properties that do not have the benefit of off-street parking. The County Council will not take on such a responsibility in the future. The clerk confirmed that he had forwarded a copy of the letter to the chairman of the Chamber of Trade.

009/08GP – Garden competition judges. The clerk confirmed that Mr Harvey has indicated he would be available to judge the garden competition on 17 July 2008. Unfortunately, Mr Baker was unavailable to judge this year due to previous commitments. It was agreed that the clerk would try and locate another judge accordingly.

**Recommend: Clerk to find another judge**

012/08GP – Any other business. Higher Roborough. The clerk had received a letter from Teign Housing stating that they were pleased to report that they have continued to work with the residents' group and are now at the stage of preparing to submit a bid for external funding to create a play space for the residents in that area. Cllr Brewer wished it noted that a meeting had been arranged with Teresa Warn of Teign Housing and himself but, unfortunately, she did not turn up. There are plans to arrange another meeting and it was agreed at this meeting, Cllr

Brewer and Cllr Posner will both attend. Cllr Brewer was requested to liaise with Cllr Posner accordingly.

Cllr Richards wished to add, regarding parking in Ashburton, that concerning Dolbeare Road the car park at the bottom, there are 11 spaces and he can report that an average of 9 are used most evenings.

**016/08GP Update on proposals for the Regional Training Centre at the old A38 garage (Ashburton Cookery School)**

The chairman welcomed Mrs Stella West Harling, who had requested to attend the meeting to be able to update the town council on what the cookery school's future plans and proposals are. Mr West Harling briefed the town council on the current status of the Ashburton Cookery School and was very pleased to report that a partnership has been set up by the cookery school and the City College of Plymouth in connection with food education and skills training. She highlighted that the school is a leading, independent cookery school for skills training with a full complement of qualified lecturers and they provide over 40 courses from one day to five-week professional diplomas and in a WSET and BLLAB accredited training centre with over 2,000 students a year in small classes of no more than ten. It was noted that together, Ashburton Cookery School and City College Plymouth, have won the coveted award of regional training centre for the school food trust for Devon and Cornwall.

Mrs West Harling then gave details of future plans in connection with the old A38 garage. She, obviously, was aware that it is important that as many people attending the school are pointed in the direction of Ashburton and continue to support the local traders as has happened in the past. She hoped that plans for the old A38 garage would be submitted in approximately three to four weeks' time.

The chairman thanked Mrs West Harling for her presentation and for keeping the town council updated on her plans. Everyone wished the school all the best for the future and congratulated her on the achievements so far and the town council looked forward to receiving the plans for the old A38 garage and naturally the planning committee will deal with these accordingly.

**017/08GP Yellow lines/Bull Ring**

The clerk stated that a decision needed to be made as to whether the town council wished the double yellow lines re-instated in the Bull Ring area. It was agreed by all present that the current zoned area is not working and this, in fact, was down to the lack of policing of the area and enforcement of the zoned area. Cllr Miller stated he would personally not wish to see double yellow lines reinstated for the simple reason that it will, also, again clutter the whole of the Bull Ring area with street furniture to accommodate all the notices that will be required.

It was generally felt that a letter should be sent to the police requesting that the parking restrictions within the zoned area should be enforced.

**Recommend: Clerk to write accordingly and copy to DCC and Cllr Barker**

**018/08GP Skips/Scaffolding issues in Ashburton**

This follows a comment from Cllr Prince, who had attended a PACT meeting where comments were made that there could be a mechanism for discussion set in place between Ashburton Town Council and authorities to liaise on the placement of skips and scaffolding. As Cllr Posner stated there is often one skip sited on the streets of Ashburton and opposite another one is placed thus creating great problems. The proposal of liaison between ATC and the authorities is an important issue. It was agreed that letters should be sent to Highways, DNP, and TDC to ascertain who is responsible for agreement to skips etc being sited in the towns and a request made for better consultation in the future.

**Recommend: Clerk to write accordingly.**

**019/08GP Linhay Bridge – Lights/pavement**

The clerk read a letter that he had sent to the Highways Department, dated 3 March 2005, requesting consideration be given to lighting of the area from near Buckland View, Cursons, Dolbeare Farm etc. to the flyover and highlighted that there is no pavement and has never received a response. Cllr Posner commented that the new structure of the flyover has been sited, with the new barrier pushed out, there is no way clear for pedestrians to walk along this area in safety as they have to walk on the road. With the lack of lighting, this really is a very dangerous situation and needs rectifying urgently. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the Highways Department, copying to Cllr Barker, requesting that these issues are attended to urgently. Also to forward a copy of the clerk's original letter.

**Recommend: Clerk to write Highways Dept accordingly.**

**020/08GP Balland Lane – Traffic issues**

The clerk commented that, regarding the various roads – Ashburton traffic orders recently received, there are several issues that he wished to bring before the council for discussion. Many people had called in to the clerk's office to complain regarding the proposals for the parking in Balland Lane. They are very concerned that the no parking limits proposed will cause vehicles to park in all side areas, such as Rock Park, Balland Park, Long Park etc. The residents would much prefer that parking be a limited time only and not no parking. The clerk stated that Cllr Hitchcock had all the details on this.

Cllr Hitchcock then presented his findings in connection with the Balland Lane area and he suggested the 15 metre stretches of double yellow lines in Balland Park and Long Park will hopefully keep these junctions clear and maintain visibility and stated that regarding the Proposed Traffic Orders for Balland Lane Ashburton and having surveyed the situation at

Balland Lane along with discussions with residents in the area, he suggested the following:

- The areas indicated in pink - Recommend: No waiting at any time.
- Yellow - No waiting Sam - 6pm Mon to Fri. except buses.

At the top of the page you will see arrowed a request for two speed restriction humps, this is the entrance to the sports fields for the Community College and many students cross at this point and vehicles do speed along this part at some considerable speed, this would help ease the problem and would be a great help regarding the safety aspect. The Town Council are very concerned that if the current proposals are passed, all that will happen is that vehicles that currently park in Balland Lane regularly every day will be pushed into the surrounding residential areas such as Long Park, Balland Park, and even Beverley and Emmetts Park which will create GREAT problems, especially with respect to obstructions as there would be so many vehicles parking in these areas along with the residents already parking there, this would simply be a recipe for trouble!

Cllr Hitchcock stated that he attended the college to view the situation for himself and there was not a great problem, there were no traffic jams etc.

A map was produced and it was agreed that this proposal would be submitted to Highways as a more acceptable order in the council's opinion.

Another issue raised was concerns regarding the proposed loading bay in North Street. On looking at the map it appears to be far too close to the Mill Path exit onto North Street, especially as there is now a post fixed onto the corner and it appears that there will not be enough room for vehicles to manoeuvre to the left with the post in situ if a lorry is parked in the loading bay. The clerk confirmed again that one or two residents in North Street also objected to this proposal as it would lose car parking spaces in North Street and parking being a premium in Ashburton, they did not see the point of this proposal.

The clerk stated that the original proposal for a loading bay came about as there is a dray that delivers to the Bay Horse, plus other deliveries weekly, and this does cause problems as they have to park on the pavement and can create congestion and it was felt that this will ease the situation. Also, when delivery vehicles are not parked in the bay, it would be able to be utilised as a pull in for drivers to give way, which they were not doing at that time, hence driving up the pavement and this was recognised as a danger. Since then, the post has been sited at the corner of Mill Path/North Street and this has certainly eased the situation of people giving way. Therefore, it has been suggested that perhaps the provision of the loading bay is now not needed quite so much as the post is doing the job it was put there for.

The committee discussed this and it was generally agreed.

**Recommend: Clerk to submit comments to DCC.**

There was also a discussion concerning the proposed roundabout, which was recently received together with an application for Dolbeare Meadow and there issues that still need to be researched on that.

Cllr Richards also wished to point out to the committee that the bus shelter, immediately next to the flyover, will have to be moved a few feet due to the realignment of the kerb line.

Cllr Gill then suspended standing orders to talk to those residents present and enquire whether they wished to make any comments. All indicated they were satisfied with what they had heard. Therefore, Cllr Gill reinstated standing orders.

It was generally agreed that the police do need to be requested to visit the area in case of any problems as there are very many cars parking at the beginning of Balland Lane and the clerk was requested to write accordingly.

**Recommend: Clerk to write to the police requesting regular visits to Balland Lane and submit comments on traffic orders to Devon County Council**

**021/08GP Officer's Report**

1. Secretary update. The clerk stated there had been an excellent response to the vacancy and interviews had been held on two evenings. There is now a short list and suitable applicants have been invited into the clerk's office for further discussions. Cllrs Posner, Gill and Richards will then make the final decision by the end of this week.
2. Recreation Shelter. The clerk stated this has now been repaired and is due to be painted very shortly.
3. Benches. Reports have been made of various benches damaged. The clerk confirmed these have now been repaired and painted. There was one seat, which was held in the town hall, that belonged to the site outside of St Lawrence Chapel, which has now been repaired and painted and will be replaced as soon as possible.

Note: Cllr Pugh left the meeting at 8.32pm.

**022/08GP Correspondence**

1. Sports Personality Awards. Nominations are to be submitted by Friday, 29 February. Cllr Distin stated he did have someone in mind and took the appropriate form accordingly.
2. Teignbridge Council for Volunteer Services. There is an event to be held on Tuesday, 4 March, at Newton Abbot racecourse, 10am to 6pm, which is called Meet the Funders. There will be many funders and advisers present at this meeting and would be well worth a visit if anyone were interested.
3. Cllr Nutley had forwarded an email regarding signage on the A38 relating to Sigford. Copies had been issued to councillors. Noted.

4. University of Plymouth questionnaires regarding creating a quality parish. Questionnaires were issued accordingly. If any councillor completes the questionnaire, they were requested to return them to the clerk's office who will return them.
5. A request to use information and wording from the Ashburton Town Council website, in connection with promoting Devon and holiday cottages. The committee agreed that the company concerned were fully entitled to any information held by the Information Centre regarding accommodation lists etc but permission would not be granted to use any wording from the Ashburton Town Council website.

**Recommend: Clerk to respond accordingly.**

6. Teignbridge District Council, Nicola Bulbeck, Chief Executive had issued a letter re Local Government Reorganisation. Copies had been issued to councillors.

**023/08GP Any other urgent business**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42 pm.

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Chairman  
26 March 2008