

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2008 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL

Present: Cllr Gill; Chairman, Cllrs Pugh, Hitchcock, Posner, Richards, Brewer, Baker, Distin, Slater and The Clerk

034/08GP Apologies

Cllr Parker had submitted apologies he will be at the meeting but will be arriving a little later.

035/08GP Minutes of the previous meeting

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

036/08GP Matters arising from the previous minutes (033/08GP AOB Swimming Pool)

The Clerk stated he was grateful to Cllr Nutley, who has been following up on the issue of when the swimming pool will be open and he had forwarded an email which he had received which stated that orders have been placed for new boilers at the pool and they are programmed for installation commencing on the 28th April, subject to the manufacturers despatching the boilers on time. The commissioning of the boilers should take up to seven days, allowing for pressure testing and water temperature checks. The committee request that the Clerk still follow up on details regarding the season tickets and when they will be opening.

Recommend: Clerk to follow up accordingly

037/08 (GP) Discussion Re: Ashburton Futures Group

The Chairman welcomed Fiona, who was representing Ashburton Futures Group, and Fiona notified the committee that they were now constituted and are receiving support from Teignbridge Strategic Partnership and they have started a community garden club, of which there are twelve to fourteen members.

Regarding allotments, perhaps they could look into the possibility of organising allotments, it was important to identify land available etc.

NOTED

Cllr Parker arrived at 7.40pm

Cllr Richards suggested that Fiona contact Teignbridge Voluntary Council regarding funding, as they may be able to help. Cllr Posner felt that first of all the organisation needs to prove a need and suggested that perhaps if they called a meeting they would be able then to establish how many people are actually interested in either allotments or community gardens. It was agreed that the Town Council would be willing to help as much as they possibly can, and certainly host the initial meeting in the town hall and Fiona was requested to liaise with the Clerk as to how she is progressing and the Clerk in turn can update the Town Council. Also the

Clerk would be able to help regarding publicity and, if Fiona emailed anything she had to the Clerk he would ensure it would reach a newsletter, website, press etc. It was agreed that Fiona would research further the possibilities of arranging such a meeting and liaise with the Clerk accordingly. The Chairman thanked Fiona for attending and wished her well.

Recommend: Clerk to liaise with Fiona

038/08 (GP) Boundary Commission Review

It was noted the consultation would take place in July and Ashburton Town Council need to discuss issues relating to this and make their minds up regarding the decision they wish to take on this issue. It was agreed that the Clerk would place this on the next General Purposes Committee agenda and councillors were asked to study the papers accordingly so that this issue can be dealt with.

Recommend: Clerk place on next GP agenda

039/08 (GP) Garden competition update

It was noted that the competition will take place on the 17th July. Two judges have now been identified and they are both named Mr Harvey. The Clerk confirmed that forms are ready, although it is a little early yet, and it was agreed that forms and posters will be issued in the near future. The closing date for the return of the forms would be by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 2nd July 2008

040/08 (GP) Full Council Procedure

The Clerk reported that, at the recent finance and town hall committee meeting, discussions had taken place regarding a sound system for full council meetings. The finance committee decided to postpone at present any decisions on this but to keep this under constant review. Councillors in the meantime were asked to speak up, speak slower and clearer so that everyone can be heard.

- Members of the public have commented that when a report is being given it is not always clear what it relates to and perhaps a very brief introduction would help ie; in relation to the letter received from Teignbridge District Council regarding the swimming pool, the response is.
- At the finance committee the question was asked whether the ten minutes public speaking should be at the beginning of the meeting or at the end of the meeting. If at the beginning, councillors would be able to take on board everything members of the public had to say and keep in mind when discussing an issue. An in-depth discussion took place on this and it was unanimously agreed that the ten minutes public speaking time would remain at the end of the full town council meeting. It was noted that this is an opportunity for the public to make comments to the town council, no decisions can be made during these discussions, and this is for information from the public to the town council only. The Clerk wished to note that, regarding the sound system, a gentleman from the RNID had contacted him and forwarded some information regarding the issue and stated that if the town council

would like himself or the information officer to call and discuss issues with the town council, they would be more than willing.

NOTED

041/08 (GP) Officers Report

The Clerk stated he had been asked to obtain permission from the Town Council for the ale tasting, bread weighing and medieval fayre banner to be draped at the front of the town hall. The committee saw no reason at all why this should not be agreed.

Recommend: Clerk to notify the courts accordingly

042/08(GP) Correspondence

There was no correspondence

043//08(GP) Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Distin asked what the procedure for the annual meeting in May is and a discussion took place regarding this:

- Bank Youth Project: Cllr Brewer thanked the town council for their lottery grant, and along with some funding from Cllr Barker, the coffee bar was now up and running and it was noted that the BYP are open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Hedge at the water trough opposite the entrance to Westabrook is in urgent need of attention.
- Hedges at Roborough Lane require cutting urgently. The wall in North Street just past the entrance to Terrace Walk, the ivy needs cutting.
- Roborough Lane, area outside of Trescor, the resurfacing has been missed.
- Dolbeare Road, chevron parking. A request for information as to whether anyone can park there or is it restricted, and if it is restricted there are no signs indicating this.
- Ausewell Hill, half way up, the milk churn stand has been hit and if it has to be rebuilt a request was made for it to be built straight, with no overhang.
- A request for the sweeper to attend to West Street, St Andrews Church Hall area, also Love Lane, Hares Lane.
- The side path at Home Park leading from Roborough Lane is overgrown with brambles and needs trimming urgently.
- The Clerk to arrange to get the refurbished seat sited back outside St Lawrence Chapel in St Lawrence Lane.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

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Chairman
Wednesday 28th May 2008