

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2008 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL

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

Cllr Gill welcomed Cllr Parker as a new member of the GP Committee and commented that the Committee is now getting very large and it was noted that in May, election to committees take place again and consideration needs to be given to numbers of all committees.

024/08GP Apologies

There were no apologies received.

025/08GP Minutes of the previous meeting

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

026/08GP Matters arising from the previous minutes

Ref: 12/08 (GP) – Cllr Brewer and Cllr Posner were meeting with the Roboroughs Association on Thursday 3rd April.

027/08 (GP) Car parking/allotments

Longstone Cross. Cllr Slater commented that this area, which he believed to be a four acre field owned by Devon CC, might well be given consideration for allotments or even parking of some description and he felt that contact should be made with DCC to suggest this. Cllr Hitchcock said it could also be considered for future affordable housing, The Clerk stated that there was a group looking into allotments and would be making contact with the Town Council. They are at the moment checking up on liabilities and insurance. Cllr Richards stated that perhaps the Clerk could research into whether the town council would be able to cover them under their own insurance policy by way of assistance.

Recommend: Clerk to deal with above

028/08 (GP) Update re area at Church Path

The clerk confirmed he has written to the Exeter Diocese also the land registry and a letter has been sent to the resident who raised the issue.

029/08 (GP) Garden competition judge – Mr Harvey

The clerk thanked Cllr Pugh for all his assistance and a judge has now been found, he is Mr M Harvey who is the chairman of the garden association. The Clerk has written to him initially making contact. It was agreed that this would be placed as another agenda item.

Recommend: Clerk place on future agenda

030/08 (GP) Traffic Issues – Old Totnes Road -Lorries

The Clerk reported that many residents have been in to complain regarding the large lorries that are attempting to gain access to the Chuley Road area via The Old Totnes Road. It was believed that they are possibly being directed by SATNAV and this is creating a problem. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Tuckers to see whether an A board could be placed at the top of the lane to say, "Use Next Exit" and regarding any other lorries a request would be made to the Highways that a sign limiting to 3.5tonnes be placed at the commencement of The Old Totnes Road, from The Pear Tree end.

Recommend: Clerk to write accordingly

031/08 (GP) Offices Report

1 Clerk produced a photograph kindly sent to him from Mrs Wendy Major showing the Ashburton kerbstones in granite, and also drainstones all the way down both sides of Woodland Road, which were uncovered when the road was resurfaced in February. Mrs Major suggested that perhaps in the future a project for the town could be considered to reinstate these at some time . It was also noted that there are also flagstones under the tarmaced pavement outside the houses,

2. Clerk suggested perhaps contact be made with the authorities regarding on street parking and questioned whether or not the town council will be involved in discussions prior to them taking this over in April as there were concerns raised that if cars were to be clamped, this would create major problems for Ashburton. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the authorities accordingly.

Recommend: Clerk to write to authorities

032//08GP Correspondence

1. A letter from a resident regarding a complaint concerning the public question time at the Full Council Meeting. It was noted that in excess of 10 minutes, was allotted to the public for any public questions to the Full Town Council but having established there were no issues to direct immediately at the Town Council, the Chairman had closed the meeting accordingly to allow those residents present to discuss Balland Lane with Councillor Barker plus governors of the community college. It was noted a letter of response would be sent accordingly.

Recommend: Clerk clerk to write accordingly

2. Guild of St Lawrence. A letter of support from the town council in connection with the Guild of St Lawrence applying to the National Lottery Board for a heritage grant. It was agreed that a letter of support would be sent by the town council.

Recommend: Clerk forward letter urgently

3. Teignbridge District Council. Street collections 24th May 2008, St Johns Ambulance (Ashburton Division)

4. Teignbridge Council Rural Skip. The skip will be present at the Kingsbridge Lane Car Park on the 31st May 2008.

5. An email from Ben Bryant, recycling officer for TDC suggesting that as the two can banks in the Ashburton car park are filling up very quickly, he would like to request the possibility of placing another spare

can bank, 1100 litre euro bin on castors somewhere around the town council offices or around the back of the library for example. The committee felt the back of the library would not be a suitable place, for many reasons, least of all this is a fire exit, and it was suggested that perhaps it could be placed in the top left hand corner of the lower car park near Barnes Joinery, or it could actually be sited near the motorbike stands immediately behind the Information Centre and chained to the rails there as these were not necessarily overused. It was also suggested that they could be chained to the rails behind the ticket machines as no cars could park there, this would be a suitable place if anyone has additional cans.

Recommend: Clerk to forward comments

6. Police Authority Liaison Meeting. Teignbridge noted that this would take place on Monday 7th April in the council chamber at Newton Abbott town council, Devon Square, to be given to Cllr Prince.

Recommend: Clerk to forward to Cllr Prince Accordingly

7. Boundary Committee Review in Devon. Notification and checklist sent from Lesley Smith, the County Secretary. It was agreed that copies of this would be forwarded to all councillors.

Recommend: Clerk to copy to Councillors

8. Ashburton Museum notification of a pre season opening on Saturday 5th April from 10.30 to 12 noon for coffee and to look around the museum and to view the recent repairs and alterations. Invitation was given to all councillors.

033/08 (GP) Any other urgent business

- Faulty street light outside of Smiths Butchers, East Street, also noted that the new standard fitted near the recreation ground shelter is also faulty.
- Concerned expressed regarding scaffolding Stapledon Lane blocking up the road and no signs were sighted.
- A classic car show is coming to Ashburton/car boot sales and information for this is in the Information Centre
- Swimming Pool, details required regarding opening and confirmation of the season ticket period as to what the dates will actually be.
- It is believed that TDC is holding a meeting regarding licensed hackney carriages and the possibility of these being de-licensed clarification would be sought.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.13m.

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Chairman
23rd April 2008

