

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2008 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN HALL

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

044/08GP Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Brewer who has been on annual leave and Cllr Posner who was unwell. Acceptances of these apologies was proposed by Cllr Pugh and seconded by Cllr Hitchcock, carried unanimously.

045/08GP Election of Deputy Chairman

Cllr Distin wished to propose Cllr Hitchcock, this was seconded by Cllr Baker. There being no further nominations, Cllr Hitchcock was elected accordingly.

046/08GP Minutes of the previous meeting

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

047/08GP Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

048/08 GP Design for CD Rom

The Clerk stated that at the recent Finance and Town Hall Buildings meeting, discussion took place regarding the front and rear covers of the CD case and some suggestions were that there should be a photograph of the town on the front and on the back, the town crest, examples were shown by the Clerk. Cllr Hitchcock felt that it should be the Town Mayor's medallion and not the Portreeve's. Cllr Pugh stated that it is actually irrelevant which medallion is shown as it is the town that is being represented. Following some lengthy discussions on this, it was agreed by all present that a plain town crest would be placed on the rear of the case.

Recommend: Clerk to arrange photographs

049/08 GP Boundary Commission Review

Cllr Hitchcock stated that if Exeter was on its own he was concerned that it would be the Ashburton residents and others who would be paying to maintain and subsidise all the rest of the areas and he would prefer to see the situation stay as a Devon Unitary Authority. Cllr Parker stated that it is difficult getting things done now without having it moving away

from its current form and he would actually prefer to stay with West Devon, Teignbridge and South Hams. Cllr Distin stated that at the end of the day as far as the Town Council is concerned it should be what is best for Ashburton. It was agreed generally that this would be placed on the July GP agenda for further discussion and when consultation had taken place.

Recommend: Clerk place on next GP agenda

050/08 GP Officers Report

1. Bullivers Way: The Clerk reported that he has had several phone calls to point out to the town council that near the bench at Bullivers Way, youngsters have dug out some of the pathway and undermined the bank by digging it and large boulders have been put in place to create ramps and people were concerned about the damage being done. The police have been contacted to request the area is patrolled and the Clerk would be monitoring the area himself and reporting back.
2. Ashburton Swimming Pool: The Clerk stated that a couple of complaints had come in stating that the swimming pool was open prior to the 31st May and in fact the pool was not heated and also the grass was in a bad condition as there were a lot of brambles everywhere etc. The committee felt saddened that, having received a letter stating that it would be open at the 31st May and posters were publicising this, TDC then opened prior to the 31st May and surely they could get their communications in better order. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward a letter questioning why the pool was opened having been told a different date.

Recommend: Clerk to write to TDC accordingly

3. Continental Market: The Clerk stated he has forwarded a copy letter to Mr Cleave, Chairman of the Ashburton Chamber of Trade and Commerce, but to date no response has been received. Cllr Distin stated that he had actually spoken to Mr Cleave who personally is not in favour, although if it were on a Sunday it would not be quite so bad. Cllr Hitchcock said it should be remembered that the last market brought in a lot of people to the town. It was noted that the Ashburton Chamber of Trade and Commerce has a committee meeting on the 2nd June and the town council would await their comments from this meeting and this can be discussed again at the next Full Town Council meeting.

051/08 GP Correspondence

1. Notification received of Devon Post Offices earmarked for closure; copies have been issued to councillors.
2. A letter from Ashburton Museum thanking the Town Council for their grant of £500 recently received. They are very grateful for the continuing support the Town Council gives towards the upkeep of the museum and it was noted that work is continuing on improving the shed which some of the councillors will have seen when they held their recent open day. The grant will help with expenses and they will be continuing with this work.

3. Teignbridge District Council notification of Street Collections: 19th August South Devon Animal Rights.
4. The Clerk reported that he had received an anonymous letter complaining about various aspects within Ashburton; vandalism, graffiti etc. Unfortunately as no contact name or address was given, it was not possible to reply as is the usual procedure in such cases, the letter can only be kept on file.

Recommend: Clerk keep letter on file

052/08 GP Any Other Business

1. Cllr Distin stated that the overgrowth on the light near Roborough Terrace is worse; it still has not been cut and needs to be urgently attended to.
2. The pathway from Roborough Lane at Home Park leading down towards the play area is in desperate need of attention.
3. Hares Lane/Love Lane is in urgent need of sweeping.
4. There is still a water leak opposite the Red Mullet fish and chip shop in St Lawrence Lane.
5. Garden Competition: Cllr Gill asked any councillors who feel they could take some entry forms and knock on a few doors she would be very grateful as this does need to be done. Cllrs Distin and Pugh said they would take some forms. Cllr Hitchcock stated that a young person who has worked hard on his garden came in to the information centre with a form but then realised that they are not on a council estate and could not enter and could the council consider a children's category. Concerns were raised that this does take a tremendous amount of work from the Clerk's office and opening up a children's category, this could create more problems. It used to be part of the Ashburton in Bloom and not the Town Council's gardening competition. The Clerk stated that if it were opened up to children it would be restricted to council estates unless the whole remit was changed. It was agreed that further discussions could take place next year and consideration be given to competition!

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

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Chairman
Wednesday 25th June 2008