Ashburton Town Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON
Wednesday 24th July 2024
At 7.30pm in The Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. Giles (Chair), Bovey, Distin, Hext, Hogbin, Nutley, Parker and Turner.

In attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Admin Assistant, and one member of the public.

045.24GP Apologies.
None.

046.24GP Declarations of interest.
None.

047.24GP Public comments/statements.
None.

048.24GP Declarations of interest.
Cllr. Giles confirmed that the minutes had been circulated. Cllr. Hogbin proposed that they be duly signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

049.24GP To discuss the proposals for the available UKSPF grant.
The Clerk confirmed that she had previously circulated a summary of her meetings. She reported that the goalposts had been widened significantly. The point of this agenda item is to get agreement as to the way forward with a possible £35,000. Cllr. Hogbin stated that she feels passionately about a part-time Town Manager post. Cllr Giles proposed that the Clerk should gather more information about the cost and role of a part-time Town Manager; seconded by Cllr. Bovey. All in favour.

ACTION

050.24GP Updater on Councillor Surgeries and review of length/frequency.
The last surgery was held by Cllrs. Giles and Bovey. Five people came but three of them were for the meeting that had been cancelled. Cllr. Giles proposed that an hour is long enough for these surgeries and that they should be on a regular date each month. The next one is to be reduced to an hour and the one after that combined with the Cost of Living event on 20th November. Cllr. Giles suggested that future surgeries, after that, be held in the Information Centre on the first Saturday of the month as Cllrs. Giles and Bovey are usually there on a Saturday anyway. She proposed this be the case up until Christmas; seconded by Cllr. Distin. All in favour.
Cllrs. Hext and Parker left at 8.05 pm.

051.24GP Request to sponsor West Street bus stop.
The Deputy Clerk had previously circulated an email from a gallery that wishes to sponsor the West Street bus stop in exchange for upkeeping the structure. (Appendix 1). The Clerk noted that there would need to be a disclaimer from Ashburton Town Council with regard to the content. Cllr. Giles proposed acceptance of this; seconded by Cllr. Bovey. All in favour.

ACTION

052.24GP To discuss the Town Council Community Awards (Cllr. Hogbin).

Cllr. Hogbin proposed that a Community Award nomination should be on the agenda at every Full Council meeting. Though previously they were twice a year. Cllr. Distin showed concern that a monthly award would devalue it but maybe a letter would be better received. The Clerk suggested a "Love Your Town" certificate but nominated from the community rather than the Council. Cllr. Giles proposed that the name be changed to Ashburton Town Heroes and that it is advertised in Around Ashburton; seconded by Cllr. Hogbin. All in favour. All nominations are to come via the Town Clerk's office.

ACTION

053.24GP Correspondence:

Resident email (20/6/24) regarding sustainability and global warming.

The Deputy Clerk projected the email from a resident. Cllr. Nutley offered to speak to the Teignbridge climate officer and report back.

ACTION

054.24GP Matters raised by Councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

Cllr. Hogbin would like a Christmas tree outside the Town Hall. This will be added to the next Finance meeting.

ACTION

Cllr. Distin suggested that town walk-arounds are re-instated – perhaps Bullivers Way. The Clerk noted that the two trees remaining to be removed are both cleared for removal, and that there has been a complaint about the danger of tree routes. Cllr. Distin said that perhaps the September meeting could be a walk around.

Cllr. Giles thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:45

Signed _____ Date _____

Chair

Actions arising from GP Committee Meeting 24th July 2024

049.24GP	**To discuss the proposals for the available UKSPF grant.** Clerk's office to gather more information about the cost and role of a part-time Town Manager.	
051.24GP	**Request to sponsor West Street bus stop.** The Clerk's Office to write a disclaimer with regard to the West Street bus stop.	
052.24GP	**To discuss the Town Council Community Awards (Cllr. Hogbin).** The Clerk's Office to advertise the Community Awards in Around Ashburton.	
053.24GP	**Correspondence:** **Resident email (20/6/24) regarding sustainability and global warming.** Cllr. Nutley to speak to the Teignbridge climate officer and report back.	
054.24GP	**Matters raised by Councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.** Cllr. Hogbin would like a Christmas tree outside the Town Hall. This will be added to the next Finance meeting.	

APPENDIX 1 **051.24GP**

Hello!

After living in the town for nearly 12 years, we have realised our dream and started a new business in town. We are doing all we can to make sure we are an asset to the town, including taking part in Chamber of Trade and community projects, and hope to make a success of our business and add to the towns visitor numbers, income and, eventually, become an employer.
We are slightly out of town which makes drawing footfall along hard, so we have thought of an idea we think would benefit us and the community.
We would like to sponsor the West Street bus shelter in return for being able to add a tasteful and suitable sign on the end wall nearest the Bullring. Our sponsorship would mean we would take on the painting and upkeep of the wooden paintwork and have a secure frame inside that would display work from members of the community on a rolling basis. This could enhance civic pride for individuals and groups and by helping to improve our visibility, support a new business in the town.
We have already been featured in The Sunday Times and Caught by the River and are gaining regional and national recognition for our folk inspired art gallery and shop in which we include local artists and makers.

Look forward to talking with you,
kind regards

Milly and Mark
Field System Gallery and Shop, West Street

APPENDIX 2 **053.24GP**

From: *(Local Resident)* – Name redacted
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 3:32 PM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@ashburton.org>
Subject: Fw: student inquiry to your work surrounding striving for change around global warming

Dear Town clerk
I am completing a research enquiry as a part of my International Baccalaureate qualification at Torquay Boys' Grammar School.
In your role as councillor, I understand you have oversight for/ a developed understanding of the work you do around creating change and improvement for climate change and I would be really grateful if you could answer some questions to help further my research into this important local and national issue. It would be most useful for my research for us to speak, either in person or via Teams/ on the phone, but I appreciate that might not be possible; in this case therefore would you be able to answer some questions via email?

- What are the councillors or mayor's role in pushing for action on global warming in our local area?
- What has the Ashburton town council done in the local area in terms of action or policies concerning climate change?
- What is the council's agenda on sustainability in the local area concerning specifically the effects of global warming?
- Has the council faced any barriers to achieving their Agenda concerning its sustainability and climate change aims?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
(Local Resident) – Name redacted