Ashburton Town Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON
Wednesday 27th November 2024
At 7.30 pm in The Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. Giles (Chair), Bovey, Distin and Nutley

In attendance: Deputy Clerk, Office Administrator, Cllr. Pickvance, two members of the NP Steering Group and two members of the public.

072.24GP Apologies.
The Deputy Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs. Hogbin, Hext and Turner due to prior commitments. Cllr. Giles proposed to accept these apologies, seconded by Cllr. Bovey. All in favour.

073.24GP Declarations of interest.
There were none declared**.**

074.24GP Public comments/statements.
There were none.

075.24GP To elect a vice-chair.
This item is to be deferred until the January meeting due to the number of absences.

076.24GP To agree the minutes of the previous meeting of 23rd October 2024.
The Deputy Clerk explained feedback received with regard to the Clerk's letters about fly-posting and A-boards. Several businesses have requested clarification of the rules. Many posters have now been removed and the number of A-boards has reduced. Cllr. Giles proposed that Cllr. Nutley contact TDC with regard to the ownership and positioning of the large rubbish bins by the bus stop opposite Kingsbridge Lane; seconded by Cllr. Bovey. All in favour.

ACTION

The action point regarding the Bovey Memorial – 069.24GP – was postponed until a future meeting.

ACTION

There being no further matters arising the minutes were duly signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cllr. Distin proposed to accept these minutes, seconded by Cllr. Bovey. All in favour.

077.24GP To receive a progress report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
The Chair of NPSG thanked the Clerk's office for their hard work and help with regard to the NP. She introduced the Vice-Chair who gave a presentation detailing the progress made and the timescale and procedure to completion. Draft copies of the plan will be made available to Councillors before the end of the year, either digitally or on paper.

078.24GP To consider the award of Town Freeman (email from resident).
The Deputy Clerk explained the role of a Town Freeman and had previously circulated copies of an example policy to Councillors. Cllr. Giles proposed that the Clerk's office write a policy to be taken back to GP for agreement. The item will then be taken to Full Council for voting on the nomination.

079.24GP To receive Town Hero nominations.
The Deputy Clerk presented a nomination from Cllr. Hogbin. Councillors raised several questions about the nominee but as Cllr. Hogbin was not present the item was postponed until the January GP meeting.

ACTION

080.24GP Matters raised by Councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.
Cllr. Giles attended a zoom training meeting last week on Register of Interests and Code of Conduct. She requested that the Civility and Respect pledge be adopted at the February Full Council meeting.

ACTION

The training meeting outlined the procedure for declarations of interest. The Clerk's office will update Councillors at the January Full Council meeting and circulate the updated model Code of Conduct.

ACTION

Cllr. Giles thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.23

Signed _____ Date _____

Chair

Summary of Actions from General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2024.

075.24GP To elect a vice-chair.
Election to be deferred until the January General Purposes meeting.

076.24GP To agree the minutes of the previous meeting of 23rd October 2024.
Cllr. Nutley to contact TDC with regard to the ownership and positioning of the large rubbish bins by the bus stop opposite Kingsbridge Lane.

Review of repairs to the Bovey Memorial (069.24GP) to be postponed to a future meeting.

078.24GP To consider the award of Town Freeman (email from resident).
Clerk's office to write a policy to be taken back to GP for agreement.

079.24GP To receive Town Hero nominations.
The item was postponed until the January GP meeting.

080.24GP Matters raised by Councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.
The Civility and Respect Pledge to be circulated ahead of adoption at the February Full Council meeting.

The Clerk's office to update Councillors of Declarations of Interest training at the January Full Council meeting.

Updated model Code of Conduct to be circulated and agreed in January