



Ashburton Town Council

MINUTES OF FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.30pm
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL

Present: Cllr. Bovey, Distin, Giles, Harper, Nutley, and Wood.
In attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Cllr. Rogers (DCC & TDC), Cllr. Major (TDC), Cllr. Bullivant (TDC), Portreeve, Master Bailiff and 3 members of the public.

Cllr. Bovey opened the meeting, welcomed those present and led a one-minute silence of remembrance.

163.25 Apologies.

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs. Coles, Pugh, Searight and Turner due to prior commitments, and Cllr. Snowsill due to a work commitment. Cllr. Nutley proposed to accept these apologies, seconded by Cllr. Giles. All in favour.

164.25 Declarations of interest.

Cllr. Giles declared an interest in agenda item 175.25 due to her position as Steward to the Courts and will abstain from voting. Cllr. Nutley noted he abstains on voting on planning due to his membership of both the DNPA and Teignbridge Planning committees.

165.25 Public comments and statements.

Cllr. Bullivant, independent chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at TDC, spoke about the major issues in Teignbridge which will have an effect on Ashburton. He stressed the importance of two-way interaction and communication. Cllr. Giles asked about funding for playparks. He responded that there could be an amount of between half and one million pounds allocated within TDC to playparks, but due process needs to be followed. Cllr. Distin asked where the money will come from if Ashburton take on extra assets; He responded that it would need to come from the precept, grants or loans.

166.25 To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meetings of 14th October 2025.

The Chair confirmed that the minutes of 14th October had been circulated. Cllr. Giles proposed that they be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded by Cllr. Harper. All in favour.

167.25 To receive the Mayor's report.

(Appendix 1). Cllr. Bovey presented her report, detailing the events attended over the last month and meetings attended.

168.25 To receive the Clerk's report.

(Appendix 2). The Clerk presented her report highlighting current staffing issues and the possible future use of AI technology in the office.

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169.25 To receive the Police report.

(Appendix 3). The Clerk presented the Police report noting that, again, just one person had made use of the 'Talk with your Local Police Team' in the Information Centre.

170.25 To receive the Devon County Council report.

Cllr. Rogers delivered his report including:

- Donna Mason has confirmed attendance at the Broadhempston meeting on 28th November. He still needs Ashburton Town Council to inform him of 3 priorities for discussion.
- Devon Libraries are entering a consultation period
- Wales and West are not progressing the claim from the swimming pool
- DNP is 75 years old next year.

For any further detail, please contact Cllr. Stuart Rogers.

171.25 To receive the Teignbridge District Council report.

Cllr. Major presented his report (Appendix 4) highlighting the £30,000 that Teignbridge have awarded under their Small Grants scheme.

Cllr. Distin asked for the breakdown of the £20,000 that Ashburton have been told it will cost to run the toilets. Cllr. Bullivant assured Councillors that he would look into this.

Standing Orders Suspended

Cllr. Bullivant reported that the formal asset consultation period commenced on 10th October and many questions are coming out of this. He did assure Councillors that he would try to get answers.

Standing Orders Reinstated

172.25 To receive the report from the Chair of the Finance and Town Hall Buildings committee.

Due to the absence of both the Chair and Deputy of the finance committee the Clerk read through the actions arising from the meeting.

173.25 To receive the report from the Chair of the Planning committee.

Cllr. Distin confirmed that the minutes had been circulated for comment ahead of the next meeting.

174.25 To receive the report from the Portreeve.

The Portreeve presented his report (Appendix 5) drawing particular attention to the amount of money raised for his two charities – Woodlanders and the Community Fridge. The Clerk thanked him for his hard work over the last year.

175.25 To resolve the appointment of the Deputy Steward to the Courts.

The Clerk explained that the Deputy Steward is appointed by the Town Council. Cllr. Nutley proposed that William West be appointed; seconded by Cllr. Distin. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk's office to write to the Steward to the Courts advising of the decision of the Council.

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176.25 To receive the Councillors' reports of attendance at sub committees and meetings of other organisations.

Cllr. Wood reported that Wales and West have declined the compensation request for the recent enforced closure to the swimming pool by Wales and West. This is being appealed. Cllr. Giles reported that there is CRUK event next weekend 22nd November in the Town Hall.

177.25 To suggest content for the Ashburton Town Council media post.

Councillors were advised to contact Cllr. Turner with anything they think is relevant.

178.25 Matters raised by Councillors for information only or on a future agenda.

Cllr. Nutley spoke about the possible closure of the cardiac department at Torbay Hospital (Appendix 6)

Cllr. Bovey thanked the councillors for attending and closed the meeting at 20.28.

Signed _____ Date _____
Chair

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM FULL COUNCIL

11th NOVEMBER 2025:

175.25 To resolve the appointment of the Deputy Steward to the Courts.

Clerk's office to write to the Steward to the Courts advising of the decision of the Council.

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APPENDIX 1, ITEM 167.25 – Mayor’s report

Mayor’s Report

Ashburton Full Council Meeting November 2025

October and November has been as predicted a busy few weeks. The usual council meetings such as finance and planning, a meeting convened to find out more about Teignbridge District Council Assets in Ashburton, the October Courts meeting, a preliminary gathering for potential volunteers for the Social Supermarket, which will be opening this Thursday and of course attending the laying of crosses to start Remembrance week, Armistice Day service and the Portreeve’s Poppy Ball, interspersed with Information Centre duties.

I was unable to attend the Newton Abbot Law Day on Saturday 25th October and look forward to meeting their portreeve on Ashburton’s Court and Law Day on Tuesday 25 November.

Sorry to say I was also unable to attend Ashburton’s RBL services both at the war Memorial and St Andrews on Sunday 9 November due to circumstances beyond my control

Seasonal invitations to various Christmas Fairs, concerts, lunches are arriving and my diary is almost full, always still room for more!!!

Ann Bovey

Mayor

APPENDIX 2, ITEM 168.25 – The Clerk’s report

Clerk’s Report

Full Council – Tuesday 11th November

Staffing update

The Admin. Assistant job vacancy has reached its deadline again, with no applications. I have had a few conversations with interested individuals regarding the job description, and on each occasion the evening meetings and minute taking has put them off. It is time to go back to the drawing board, and I suggest holding a HR meeting shortly to discuss some different options including making use of GovAssist – a new way of working with AI at councils, offering a range of Assistants to tackle planning, budget forecasting, meeting minutes and resident enquiries. It streamlines routine admin tasks and provides instant, secure, sector-compliant data access, GovAssist reduces administrative overheads and enhances decision-making accuracy for council clerks and officers. I met with the Founder at the DALC conference I attended in October.

As agreed last month, we have taken on Roisin McElwee, a self-employed admin assistant, who is working 8 hours a week whilst the 16 hour employed position remains unfilled. So far, she has been helping us review the Health and Safety policy and implement key requirements within the Town Hall – for example ensuring that Cosh certificates are in place, and our risk assessments are adequate. She is also steadily reviewing our key policies, ensuring they refer to up to date legislation and where appropriate are using NALC or SLCC approved templates. Upon completion, we will report all recommendations and key elements to the appropriate committees ahead of the new Council year and proposed adoption.

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Unfortunately, we have had a period of staff sickness and ongoing limitations, therefore I have had to readjust our current priorities. Bookings, planning applications and resident concerns remain at the top of the list – alongside these, the budget is my key priority ready to be discussed at Finance next week.

All other actions and tasks are being recorded and will be acted on as soon as possible but will have to be done in an order of priority based on deadlines and urgency.

Broadband and VoIP

A key issue at the Town Hall recently has been internet access. Over the last few weeks, customers have noted poor or no connection to the Wi-Fi. After investigations with our current providers, we are told that there is no problem with the connection so we are at a loss.

I have restarted the conversation with our IT support, and I have received an updated quote for a new broadband and phone system which will include the two halls and the Information Centre. This will be added to the Finance meeting next week to discuss.

Finally...

On behalf of the staff of the Council, I would like to thank Martyn for working so tirelessly as Portreeve this past year and supporting the community wherever possible; we look forward to working with Shane and wish him well for his coming year. So, thank you.



Neighbourhood Police Report

Ashburton Town Council

October 2025

This report covers the area of the Ashburton.

The area includes the town of Ashburton, its road network including a section of the A38.

The area is served by the Neighbourhood Policing team, working out of Ashburton Police Office, Conway House.

The team is led by Sector Inspector Sean Roper.

Police Sergeant Ryan Cook is the Neighbourhood Team Leader for the area.

PC Claire Hurrell is the Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Ashburton working alongside Police Community Support Officer Tamzin Campbell-Moseley.

In the period **1st of October 2025 to 31st October 2025** there were **10** criminal offences reported for this area.

1 – Blackmail	1 – Harassment without Violence
1 – Common Assault	1 – Sexual Assault
1 - Control & Coercive Behaviour	1 - Stalking
3 – Criminal damage	1 - Theft

Police also responded to **51** non-crime incidents across this area.

These included road traffic related matters, domestics, concerns for welfare, missing persons, sudden deaths, prison recalls and firearms / licensing management.

A “Talk with your Local Police Team” (formally known as Police Surgery) was held on Tuesday 24th October with **1** attendee.

Claire Hurrell

Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC 12367

Tamzin Campbell-Moseley

Police Community Support Officer 30577

APPENDIX 4, ITEM 171.25 – Cllr Major's Reports

November 2025 Report

A383 Briefing.

Teignbridge councillors were given a briefing on the 30th of October about the works and closures taking place on the A383. At this current time, the report cannot be shared but once we have a shareable document, I will send this to you.

One Teignbridge Action Plan

The one Teignbridge action plan was approved and will now be implemented to set out the priorities for the next 5 years seeing us to the end of Teignbridge and into the new unitary.

The key priorities are: Infrastructure, Homes, Environment, Economy and Community and the full document is linked bellow.

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/media/nabn5sic/appendix-1-one-teignbridge-council-strategy-2025-2030.pdf>

Sherborne House

Sherborne house social housing redevelopment has been approved by the council and will see Teignbridge construct 13 1 bed and 10 2 bed flats all for social rent. These will also built to some of the highest standards yet seen for social housing to make them as affordable to run and maintain.

<https://news.teignbridge.gov.uk/affordable-housing-development-approved-in-newton-abbot/>

Newton Abbot community transport call for support.

Newton Abbot community transport association are calling for new volunteers as well as asking for new trustees to help support the charity after two of their long standing trustees have declared they intend to stand down. Anyone interested in either role please contact them at; <https://www.newtonabbotcta.org/>

<https://www.themoorlander.co.uk/news/local-news/1936182/new-trustees-needed-to-keep-newton-abbot-community-transport-on-the-road.html>

Cllr Jack Major

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Teignbridge Lottery For Communities Small Grants 2025			
Applicants		Lead contact	Amount agreed
Teignbridge Community Project CIC (Newton Abbot)	Inclusive Workshops Deliver Creative and Wellbeing Activities for All Ages	Anna Lofthouse	£2,500
More Positive me (Based in Exeter - Project Newton Abbot)	Empowerment Course Supports Women After Domestic Abuse	Hannah Hill	£2,472
Horsemanship for Health (Teignmouth)	Community Garden and Nature Retreats Combat Isolation for Mental Health Survivors	Belinda Seward	£2,500
Bank Youth Project Ashburton	Youth Provision Creates Safe Spaces and Builds Resilience for Ages 9–19	Joe Elston	£2,500
Life Chance Trust	Life Chance Trust Helps At-Risk Young People Reconnect Through Community Activities	Hannah Moon	£2,500
South Devon Aspergers Group (Kingsteignton)	Support for children aged 5-18 with Autism, ADHD, Aspergers or Learning Disabilities .	Lisa Hasluck	£2,500
Buckfastleigh -Bungalow Youth Project	Youth programme called "The Bungalow Kitchen: Cook, Share, Thrive".	Fanny Jackson	£2,500
Assist Teignbridge Volunteer Centre (Dawlish)	Befriending Support + Recruit and train volunteers	Dawn Rivers	£2,500
Roots (Dawlish)	Coastal Carers Club and Specialist Groups Offer Care and Connection	Rosie Dawson	£1,344
West Bank (Exminster)	Warmwell Community Hub Provides Diverse Social Activities to Tackle Isolation	Katie Elliott	£2,500
The Fourth Trimester Postpartum CIC (Newton Abbot)	New Antenatal Workshops Prepare Families for Postpartum Life	Grace Williams	£2,500
A.I.M.S (Teignmouth)	Free Play and Creative Activities for Families with Special Educational Needs	Claire Rose Coombs	£1,000
Adventure Therapy (Kingsteignton)	Guided Wellbeing Walks for Women to Build Confidence and Reduce Isolation	Amy Weekes	£500
Citizens Advice Teignbridge	Foodbank Caseworker Delivers Financial Inclusion Support for Vulnerable Families	Helen Mouat	£2,184
			£30,000

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APPENDIX 5, ITEM 174.25 – The Portreeve's report

1204th Portreeve – Martyn Brooks

As I come to the end of my Portreeve's year, I wanted to briefly reflect on what a fantastic year it has been. I have had the privilege to attend many coffee mornings and Chair many of the fantastic organisation's AGMs.

Some highlights include attending 50th anniversary of the Cleder/Ashburton Twinning in France, the 80th anniversary of the Pensioners Association, dressing as Easter Bunnies/Eggs and of course being invited to Charles III Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Carnival week was very well supported by the town with the procession of walkers brightening up the day with the under the sea theme followed by an excellent evening of dancing in the Park.

This was followed by the Ale & Bread Ceremony, the pinnacle of my year and I wanted to thank all the local pubs, clubs, bakeries, shops and others that took part, with the bread auction making over £1000 for my charities.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without Kate, my wife, Shane the Master Bailiff and his wife Mags, they have truly helped make this a memorable year.

I hope to finish my year by raising around £5000 for my 2 charities, Woodlanders and the Community Fridge and I hope the money can be used to support these very worthy organisations.

So, finally, thank you to everyone of Ashburton for supporting me during my year and I wish Shane & Mags all the success in their year.

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APPENDIX 6, ITEM 176.25 – Report from Cllr. Nutley

I would just like to highlight the campaign to stop the closure of cardiology at Torbay Hospital moving to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

You may or may not be aware of the campaign to stop the closure of cardiology at Torbay Hospital.

As we know there are plans to close the cardiac unit at The Torbay Hospital and move it to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. If these plans go ahead, people will undoubtedly die as every minute counts when you have a heart attack.

If you have a heart attack in South Devon, the paramedics in the ambulance will do an ECG, which is sent in real time to the CATHLAB at Torbay Hospital. As soon as the patient arrives they will be taken straight to the cardiac unit for immediate treatment. Once the heart muscles are starved of oxygen they die, so probably a stent will be inserted to return blood flow to your heart. If you are not treated within a very short space of time, you may live but your heart will not be the same, and you may be left with severe impacts on your health.

This is time sensitive and critical in saving someone's life, for someone having to be blue lighted from the Torbay area to Exeter and as we all know, the number of holdups caused through accidents on the M5, and broken down vehicles on roads leading to the M5, they could be dead by the time they get there. Medical care Campaign to stop the closure of cardiology at Torbay Hospital moving to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Campaign to stop the closure of cardiology at Torbay Hospital moving to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital should be as close as possible to the point of need. There is a "golden hour" from when you first have symptoms of a heart attack, to get to a hospital for treatment, At the moment that is Torbay Hospital. If, as suggested, cardiac services are moved to the RD&E, then the chances of survival are reduced dramatically and will no doubt end in the death of patients unable to reach treatment in the critical time span.

The plan of the ICB (Integrated Care Board), part of the NHS, is obsessed with their 'Case for Change' at the expense of patients. Out of 68 cardiac centres in the UK, The Torbay Hospital Cardiac Unit is considered to be a centre of excellence. In their wisdom, the ICB's aim is to merge our first-class facility into the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital's Cardiac Unit, which is under-performing, with a long waiting list and with 46 patients having died whilst waiting for treatment.

We must fight to save our life-saving cardiac department at Torbay Hospital, which is in the top four performing units in the country, where the RD&E is eighteenth. Make no mistake, if we lose even a section of the department, all cardiology services will be affected, and then the rest of acute services at the hospital may fall like a pack of cards.

I will be asking question at governors meeting but would ask that TDC will also support the campaign to stop the closure of all cardiology services at Torbay Hospital, and can I ask that this is put into the resident and members newsletters.

Cllr John Nutley
Executive Member for
Leisure, Recreation, Resorts and Tourism
Teignbridge District Councillor for
Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Ward