



Ashburton Town Council

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting
held on Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 7.30pm
(or on the rising of the Planning Committee meeting)
in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. Coles, Distin, Giles, Nutley, Turner and Wood.
In attendance: The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and four members of the public.

Cllr. Distin opened the meeting at 7.45pm and welcomed those present.

001.26GP Apologies.

The Clerk noted that apologies had been received from Cllr Bovey due to illness. Cllr. Distin proposed to accept these apologies; seconded by Cllr. Giles. All in favour.

002.26GP Declarations of interest.

There were none received.

003.26GP Public comments/statements.

There were none.

004.26GP To agree the minutes of the previous meeting of 24th September 2025.

Cllr. Distin confirmed that the minutes had previously been circulated. Actions were reviewed. Cllr Distin proposed to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr. Nutley. All in favour.

005.26GP To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group.

The Chair of the steering group, Barbara Dunball introduced Graham Rogers, he explained that good progress has been made in the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan despite serious illness of members of the steering group.

The group recommend that at the next GP meeting on Wednesday 25th February, the steering group provide an update the progress of the various justification reports that have been prepared, together with details of any updates to the working draft. Graham further recommends that an illustrated presentation of the plan will be shared with the Full Council on 10th March 2026. With permission, a small display will be set up in the Council Chamber prior to March's Full Council meeting in order for Councillors and public to read the reports. The Chair reminded Graham to also share these reports electronically to share them in advance.

006.26GP To consider the installation of the bike racks.

The Clerk confirmed that the council now has written consent from the Devon Highways Officer confirming that the installation can go ahead as per the site plans prepared by a former councillor.

Following the completion of adequate risk assessments, and discussion questions answered, Councillors aim to see these fitted during March.

ACTION: Clerks Office to ensure the procedure is prepared accordingly.

007.26GP To consider the Council’s strategy and recommend to Full Council adoption.

Cllr. Wood presented the Council strategy, formed following last years Organisation Day and an informal meeting of the Clerk and Councillors.

A recommendation was made to hold an evening meeting during March, inviting a member of all local organisations to attend. This meeting would introduce the organisation, share knowledge, explore skills, raise concerns etc. This would then encourage community engagement and support the town’s residents.

Cllr Wood proposed to recommend the Council Strategy to Full Council for adoption.

ACTION: Add the adoption of the Council Strategy to the February Full Council meeting.

008.26GP Matters raised by Councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Councillors raised concerns that a car seems to be abandoned at the Linhay A38 slip road. **ACTION: Clerk’s office to report.**

- Cllr Nutley to make contact with the signwriter for the board in the Council Chambers.

Cllr. Distin thanked those present and closed the meeting at 20.59

..... Date:
Chair

ACTIONS FROM GP MEETING – 28th January 2026

006.26GP To consider the installation of the bike racks.

Clerks Office to ensure the procedure for the installation is prepared accordingly.

007.26GP To consider the Council’s strategy and recommend to Full Council adoption.

Add the adoption of the Council Strategy to the February Full Council meeting.

008.26GP Matters raised by Councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

Clerk’s office to report abandoned car to the correct authority.