



# Ashburton Town Council

**Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting  
held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm  
in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. Distin, Giles, Harper, Nutley, Pugh and Wood.

**In attendance:** Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Rev. Parker, Portreeve, Cllr. Rogers (DCC & TDC), Cllr. Major (TDC) and six members of the public.

Cllr. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

## **01.26 Apologies.**

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr. Bovey due to illness, Cllrs. Coles, 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. Pugh. All in favour.

## **02.26 Declarations of interest.**

There were none declared.

## **03.26 Public comments and statements.**

A member of the public spoke about intending to start a town band. This band would lead parades such as the Remembrance Day parade from the war memorial to the church, or Portreeve's Sunday parade from St Lawrence Chapel to the church; additionally, this band could play carols around the town at Christmas or take part in the carnival. He would like to advertise in the Around Ashburton and requests the council support him in 'getting the word out'.

Another member of the public commented on the noticeboard in Balland Lane and its state of disrepair. The Clerk noted that this is due to be removed shortly, and replaced in due course.

## **04.26 To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

The Clerk confirmed that all actions from the meeting have been completed. Cllr. Harper proposed that these minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded by Cllr. Giles. All in favour.

## **05.26 To receive the Clerk's report.**

(Appendix 1) The Clerk presented her report highlighting several areas; staff training, the upcoming HR meeting, essential lift maintenance, the upgrade to the hand driers and the installation of new broadband and VOIP systems.

## **06.26 To receive the Police report.**

(Appendix 2) The Clerk presented the Police report.

**07.26 To receive the Devon County Council report.**

(Appendix 3) Cllr. Rogers stressed the urgent need for foster carers in the County. There will be a meeting regarding this in the spring. If you require more information on any topic, please contact him directly.

**08.26 To receive the Teignbridge District Council reports.**

Cllr. Rogers reported that the Housing Needs Survey breakdown will be available shortly and that disability needs at Devon Home Choice now have more standing. Cllr. Wood asked that the Devon Home Choice information is also accessible in the Information Centre.

(Appendix 4) In addition to his attached report, Cllr. Nutley offered to partially fund a new notice board for Balland Lane, requesting that Cllrs. Major and Rogers do the same.

(Appendix 5) Cllr. Major's report is attached.

Cllr. Giles asked for a breakdown of the £20,000 cost of running the toilets. The Clerk has recently received this information and will circulate it to Councillors.

**ACTION: Clerk's office to circulate the breakdown of the cost of the toilets to Councillors.**

**09.26 To receive the report from the Chair of the Finance and Town Hall Buildings committee and to resolve the recommendation of awarding grants to four local organisations.**

Grant applications were discussed during the committee meeting; the committee had ensured that all relevant paperwork had been received in line with the Grants Policy. It was also noted that the council have legal power to spend in each case.

1. ACE Community Fridge - £3,150 to fund a coordinator for 6 months.

Cllr. Pugh proposed acceptance of this, seconded by Cllr. Harper. All in favour.

2. Ashburton Cricket Club - £500 towards the cost of new safety netting.

Cllr. Pugh proposed acceptance of this; seconded by Cllr. Giles. All in favour.

3. Bank Youth Project - £15,000 for two consecutive years.

Proposed by Cllr. Pugh; seconded by Cllr. Wood. Cllr. Giles voted against. Majority in favour.

4. Moorland Community Caring - use of the Town Hall for their twice monthly meetings.

Acceptance of this was proposed by Cllr. Pugh; seconded by Cllr. Giles. All in favour.

**RESOLVED TO PAY THE ABOVE GRANTS IN THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR.**

**10.26 To finalise and resolve to adopt the 2026-2027 budget.**

The Clerk presented the budget and explained the changes to the Town Services section.

Cllr. Pugh proposed that this was accepted; seconded by Cllr. Distin. All in favour.

**RESOLVED.**

**11.26 To finalise and resolve the 2026-2027 precept demand.**

Cllr. Pugh proposed to accept the precept demand amount based on the budget; seconded by Cllr. Harper. Cllr. Giles voted against. The rest all in favour.

**RESOLVED.**

**12.26 To receive the report from the Portreeve.**

The Portreeve delivered his report (Appendix 6).

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

Cllr. Nutley reported that he had attended a BYP meeting and that both the Deputy Chair and Admin Officer were leaving this month. There is a new Administrator but more Trustees are required.

Cllr. Pugh noted that the RBL's Burns Night is to be held 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Tickets are £15.

Cllr. Harper gave a brief report on the recent asset meeting and reminded all Councillors about the open day on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Cllr. Wood reported that repair work is ongoing at the swimming pool.

**14.26 To suggest content for the Ashburton Town Council media post.**

Councillors suggested the asset open day and the creation of the new town band.

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

There were no matters raised.

Cllr Wood thanked those present and closed the meeting at 20.36

Signed ..... (Chair)      Date .....

**Action Points Arising from the Full Council Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers**

**08.26 To receive the Teignbridge District Council reports.**

Clerk's office to circulate the breakdown of the cost of the toilets to Councillors.

**Staffing**

Our Deputy Clerk has successfully passed her ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration) qualification and is now preparing to take on FILCA (Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration). I am sure you will all join me in saying congratulations, Lynn.

My own CiLCA deadline is fast approaching, all submissions must be in by the 1<sup>st</sup> March so I'm on the last push now.

Within the last few days, I have had two individuals approach me regarding the Admin Assistant position. I recommend holding a HR meeting prior to the Finance Committee next week to discuss this. I have emailed the HR group today and received a few responses, can the remainder please let me know if this is agreeable to ensure we are quorate.

**Office priorities**

- The decision was made to upgrade the town hall hand dryers; the installation is taking place tomorrow (Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>).
- The broadband/ VOIP installation is being finalised this Thursday (15<sup>th</sup>). Unfortunately, that does mean we will be without the internet and phone lines for some time during the morning. I will notify the public on social media tomorrow. They will also be updating me on a plan for better internet in the Information Centre.
- The lift repairs will be taking place next Wednesday and Thursday (21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>). We have tried to reduce the inconvenience caused to hirers of the hall and notified all that are affected.

**Councillor Representatives on Local Organisations**

With only three Full Council meetings left before the end of the council year, with agreement from Cllr. Bovey, we wish to invite those of you who are representatives on local organisation committees to give a report; this could cover recent activities, achievements, concerns or anything you feel is relevant.

Additionally, I would ask you to consider whether the 12 organisations currently represented are the most appropriate; and whether any other local organisation may wish to have a Councillor representative in its place.

As a reminder, please see this list below. For ease, I would like to invite the first four to February Full Council, the next four to March and the remainder to April. If this does present an issue, please let me know and I can amend the agendas.

ACE / Community Fridge	Cllr. Coles.	February Full Council
Ashburton Community Land Trust	Cllr. Searight.	
Ashburton/Cleder Association	Cllr. Searight.	
Ashburton Museum	Cllr. Turner	
Ashburton Swimming Pool	Cllr. Searight.	March Full Council
Bank Youth Project	Cllr. Nutley.	
Cancer Research Campaign	Cllr. Giles.	
Carnival Committee	Cllr. Pugh.	
Chamber of Trade & Commerce	-	April Full Council
Glendennings Liaison	Cllr. Distin.	
Moorland Community Caring	Cllr. Turner.	
Royal British Legion	Cllr. Searight.	

**Ashburton & Chudleigh Neighbourhood Police Team**

📞 101 Non-urgent  
📞 999 in an emergency  
🌐 www.devon-cornwall.police.uk  
📧 101@dc.police.uk

📱 DevonAndCornwallPolice  
📧 @DC\_Police  
📞 dc\_police.999  
📱 DCPolice

## ASHBURTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

This report covers the parish of Ashburton including its road network. The Parish has the Police beat code of JA2C. The Parish is served by the Neighbourhood Police team working out of Ashburton Police Station and Chudleigh Police Office. The Parish forms part of the Teignbridge Coastal & Rural Policing sector.

The team is led by Police Inspector Sean Roper and Sergeant Ryan Cook Neighbourhood Team Leader and PC Claire Hurrell is the Neighbourhood Constable (Neighbourhood Beat Manager) and is supported by PCSO Tina Jordan.

Although every effort has been made to produce an accurate representation of the figures included in the report there may be a slight discrepancy in the totals shown.

For the period 1/12/2025 to 31/12/2025 in the Ashburton beat area there has been a total of 44 Incident Reports of a varying nature logged resulting 16 Occurrence Reports being raised that required further investigation under the following categories:

Public Safety and Concern for Welfare: 4  
Violence: 2  
Theft: 1  
Fraud: 1  
Stalking: 1  
ASB: 1  
Harassment: 1  
Drug related: 1  
Police Generated & Administration: 3

## APPENDIX 3

ITEM - 07.26

Within DCC There are 2026 / 27 Budgets in the coming weeks to confirm budgets .

UK Government as issued Red . Amber & Green for England Roads . Devon is a yellow and there are many questions regarding the extra Money that quite simply DCC can not understand the detail behind the media headlines by the Government .  
Sunday episode of Politics SW confirms the situation .

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002pxc2/politics-south-west-11012026>

Ashburton Planned works with other Partners and if there any queries from Communication received, please advise prior to Tuesday evening .

Do Town Councillors Receive the DCC updates ?

The November DCC / TDC / DNPA meeting date will be scheduled when 26 / 27 budget is confirmed .

Ashburton Town Council have received written notice of email scheduled by DCC advise if there any queries .

Ashburton Town Council were notified that Kenwyn is subject to Commercially Confidential sale, and you will appreciate information is unavailable .When more information is available and can be shared it will be .

[Commercial development for sale in Kenwyn, Western Road, Ashburton, TQ13](#)

Initial Financial Plane Proposals 2026/27

The Council tax will be increased 2.99% or £6.05 to £208.33 for an average band D property. Which equates to less than per week.

We have retained 100% Council tax Support.

We have assumed wage and general inflation at 3%.

Fees and charges have been reviewed and details of the anticipated, the average increase is 5.4% but there are ups and downs in the mix of charges. Full details will be available on the Teignbridge website in January

We have aligned our capital program with the one Teignbridge action plan to support community development local economy environmental care affordable housing and infostructure improvements.

We are providing eight hundred thousand over a four-year period for town and Parish council projects which are aligned with the community infrastructure plan.

We are investing in housing 7.2 million over 23 social rented flats at Sherborne House, Newton Abbot, in edition to the 52 social rented homes and temporary accommodation that has been delivered to the homes for Teignbridge housing program.

We have provided for a 4% increase in grants to voluntary groups such as CBS and CRV.

We are investing in infrastructure improvements to the A382, final stages to the Dawlish link road.

Education facilities.

Ridge Top Country Park in Exminster.

1.3 million for improvements for the Dawlish Leisure Centre.

1.6 million towards the cycle trails across the area.,

Improvements to the waste management station to comply to government regulations.

3 million for the provision of employment sites.

Completion of the refurbishments to the market hall in Newton Abbot.

Creation of additional car parking in Teignmouth.

1 million toward the cost of upgrading play parks across the district.

Improvements to the IT infrastructure.

We have continued to react to the climate change emergency by maintaining ongoing budgets for a climate change officer and associated spending in revenue in the capital program including ongoing provisions for decarbonisation schemes.

We have retained the revenue contributions to capital to 1.5 in 26/27 and reduced it to 500 thousand in 27/28.

We have increased the level of reserves necessary for the council to 2.6 million and we have also retained the council's community fund which provides valuable support to local voluntary groups at £1000 per annum per member with a minimum grant of a £150.

## January Report

New pop-up trading opportunities, including one site in Buckfastleigh, are available in Teignbridge with everyone interested being invited to contact Teignbridge.

<https://news.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-opens-pop-up-business-opportunities-across-teignbridge/>

Community grant funding has been paid out to 14 organisations that include The BYP in Ashburton and Bungalow project in Buckfastleigh receiving funding.

<https://news.teignbridge.gov.uk/good-causes-boosted-by-teignbridge-lottery-small-grants-funding/>

1<sup>st</sup> Phase of electrification of the Teignbridge fleet has been rolled out 'saving enough fuel to drive a Renault Clio around the world 18 times'. The project has saved £18,500 in fuel costs alone so far this year.

2 Decarbonisation project in Teignbridge have concluded with these projects already making savings projected to £120,000 a year in fuel costs alone.

The installation of heat pumps at Forde house and Teignmouth lido project are completed and have shown a 60% and 77% respective reduction in fuel usage so far.

Recycling rates are up to 54.2% of all waste collected putting us in the top 12% of all councils. This is hoped to be further improved with the investment in the bulking station starting later this year and the expansion to recyclable materials we can process coming with that.

Green spaces survey has concluded with 75% of respondents say our spaces are "welcoming places to visit" and 81% "well managed". Our playing and sports fields only received 54% of respondents saying they were adequate so a new Teignbridge playing pitch strategy has begun expected to conclude in November 2026 to address the issues raised and expand our facilities.

Green flags have been awarded to Courtney park, Decoy Countryside park, The Den and home yards botanical gardens expand our list of green flag sites.

Target hardening works on Bakers park, Courtney park, Dawlish countryside park, Forde park, Osborne park and Sandringham park are almost completed with the final works commencing next week (Monday 19<sup>th</sup>) and will be concluded by the end of February with additional planting to be done later in the year.