



Ashburton Town Council

Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting
held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm
in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. Distin, Giles, Harper, Nutley, Pugh, Searight, Snowsill, Turner and Wood.

In attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Cllr. Rogers (DCC & TDC), Cllr. Major (TDC) and three members of the public.

Cllr. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

016.26 Apologies.

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs. Bovey and Pugh due to illness and Cllr. Coles due to a prior commitment. Cllr. Giles proposed to accept these apologies; seconded by Cllr. Turner. All in favour.

017.26 Declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

018.26 Public comments and statements.

A member of the public spoke passionately about the possible closure of the toilets and suggested strong resistance.

Another member of the public implored the Council to leaflet all households with more details of the asset transfer process. He also reminded those present about joining the town band.

019.26 To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 13th January 2025.

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

020.26 To receive the Police report.

(Appendix 1) The Clerk presented the Police report. Cllr. Searight noted that monthly reports showing discrete information do not show whether certain times of crime are seasonal or increasing. He asked that the Clerk's office compile data throughout 2026 to show this, perhaps graphically.

ACTION: Clerk's office to collate the monthly crime figures going forward.

021.26 To receive the Devon County Council report.

(Appendix 2) Cllr. Rogers advised –

- All pot-hole repair work is on hold because of the weather.
- The library consultation period closes on 22nd February.
- There will be a meeting about Lucas Mead 2 in the Town Hall 24th March.

022.26 To receive the Teignbridge District Council report.

Cllr. Major explained some of the difficult and legal decisions that TDC are having to make. Discussion ensued regarding the likelihood of the car parks being transferred to Ashburton. The general feeling is that this is very unlikely. Cllr. Wood asked that all three Teignbridge Councillors took note of the feeling in the room and feed this back to Teignbridge and garner an official response from them to feed back at the next Full Council meeting.

ACTION: Clerk's office to confirm this request in writing to Cllrs. Rogers, Nutley and Major.

023.26 To receive the report from the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Cllr. Turner presented the actions from the previous meeting, all of which were complete. Cllr. Snowsill suggested a possible local contact for soundproofing material. Cllr. Turner summarised the interview held the previous day with a possible new Admin Assistant and suggested a start date of 23rd February. The Clerk presented all Councillors with a new lanyard and ID card and asked that they are worn at all times that the Councillors are on Council business.

024.26 To receive the report from the Chair of the Planning Committee.

Cllr. Searight reported on the need for double yellow lines on the corner of Balland Lane. Cllr. Rogers stated that he is already dealing with this. He also mentioned several areas at the western end of Ashburton becoming 'car parks'. He noted that the work on the Chuley Road development seems to have recommenced.

25.26 To receive the report from the Chair of the General Purposes Committee and resolve the recommendation to adopt the Council Strategy.

Cllr. Wood presented the five-year strategy (appendix 3). She sought agreement to work with this document and review it annually. It will be called Ashburton Town Council's Strategic Responsibilities. Cllr. Snowsill proposed acceptance of this document; seconded by Cllr. Searight. All in favour.

RESOLVED.

026.26 To consider a nomination for the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, 8th May 2026.

Cllr. Wood nominated Cllr. Bovey, the Mayor; seconded by Cllr. Snowsill. All in favour.

RESOLVED.

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

Cllr. Turner reported her attendance at a meeting at Ashburton Museum. They have stopped charging an entry fee which has increased their footfall. Their revenue is circa £700 pa. During May to September, they are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 2-4pm. with Saturday being added during July and August. She also reported that St Lawrence Chapel are seeking Trustees and require £250,000 for work on the tower. Cllr. Searight reported on his attendance at the Town of Culture meeting which was well attended. Ashburton have arranged to work with Buckfastleigh to create a larger stronger bid.

The next Asset Management Working Group meeting was discussed and agreed for Monday 23rd February prior to the next Open Evening on 3rd March.

ACTION: Clerk's office to arrange Asset meeting and invite attendees.

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

Councillors suggested the LGR but phrased positively; the Libraries Consultation and the Strategic Responsibilities.

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

Cllr. Nutley had been contacted by ACE about a meeting with the Town Clerk. The Clerk explained that a brief meeting had already taken place and the subject was already an agenda item on the next Finance meeting on 17th February.

Cllr. Turner stated that a response to TDC is required about LGR. This to be taken to the next General Purposes meeting as an agenda item.

The Clerk was asked to gather information about the cost of Public Liability insurance if Ashburton was to take on recreation grounds as well as costs for dog poo bins, gardening, trees, benches etc with regard to other assets that may be forthcoming. This subject to be discussed by the Asset Management Working Group and reported back to a Finance committee meeting.

ACTIONS: Ashburton Town Council's official response regarding LGR to be taken to the next General Purposes meeting.

Clerk to get costs of Public Liability insurance for the recreation parks.

Cllr Wood thanked those present and closed the meeting at 20.56

Signed (Chair) Date
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Action Points Arising from the Full Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers

020.26 To receive the Police report.

Clerk's office to collate the monthly crime figures throughout 2026 to enable statistical data to be presented.

022.26 To receive the Teignbridge District Council report.

Clerk's office to confirm the request in writing to Cllrs. Rogers, Nutley and Major that all three Councillors report the feelings of Ashburton residents to Teignbridge and get an official response from them about the car parks.

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

Clerk's office to arrange Asset meeting for Monday 23rd February and invite attendees.

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Ashburton Town Council's official response regarding LGR to be taken to the next General Purposes meeting.

Clerk to get costs of Public Liability insurance for the recreation parks.

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 1st 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 14th).
- The broadband/ VOIP installation is being finalised this Thursday (15th). 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 (21st and 22nd). 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
Glennings 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

13TH 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

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.

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/>

1st 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 saving 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 19th) and will be concluded by the end of February with addition planting to be done later in the year.