Ashburton Town Council

Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7.30pm, in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. Wood (Chair), Bovey, Coles, Distin, Giles, Nutley, Pugh, Snowsill, and Turner.

In attendance: Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Cllrs. Rogers (DCC & TDC) and Major (TDC) and two members of the public.

Cllr. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

076.26 Apologies.
Apologies were received from Cllr. Searight due to a prior commitment. Proposed by Cllr. Snowsill, seconded by Cllr. Giles.
RESOLVED

077.26 Declarations of interest.
Cllr. Nutley noted that he abstains from voting on DNPA planning matters due to his membership on the DNPA planning committee.

078.26 Public comments and statements.
A member of the public spoke about Moor Car, a car sharing initiative that has been active since 2002. They currently have one car in Ashburton, two in Totnes and are seeking more members.

079.26 To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meetings of 12th May 2026.
The clerk confirmed that the actions from the previous minutes were completed. Cllr. Snowsill proposed that these minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and be signed accordingly; seconded by Cllr. Pugh.
RESOLVED

080.26 To receive the Mayors report.
Cllr. Wood presented her report (Appendix 1) highlighting the Doctors' Surgery's recent coffee morning, the Asset Management Group and the Council's strategic priorities.

081.26 To receive the Police report.
The Clerk presented the report (Appendix 2).

082.26 To receive the Devon County Council report.
Cllr. Rogers presented his DCC report (Appendix 3). He reported that he is working to secure the million pounds that has been awarded for the District's play parks as well as the £800,000 that has been promised over the next four years. He reported that the match funding opportunity has already been over-subscribed. He also reported that he had seen the NEB film and that there may be funding for energy/heating.

083.26 To receive the Teignbridge District Council report.
Cllr. Nutley had circulated his report (Appendix 4) prior to the meeting which prompted Cllr. Snowsill to request assurance that Ashburton's play parks are to be prioritised once the TDC money is released. Cllr. Nutley assured Council this is the case.

Cllr. Major reported that the Councillors' Community Fund is now available and that he has been elected Vice Chair of TDC for the second year in a row.

084.26 To receive the Internal Audit report and note the observations.

The Clerk presented the Internal Auditor's report (Appendix 5) following an interim and year-end visit to the Council. There were no observations of non-compliance. Observations included required authorization of a list of monthly Direct Debits and a list of the bank signatories; Data Audit/ IT Policy necessities and suggestions regarding contract templates.

Councillors reviewed the independence of the Internal Auditor; agreeing that the Auditor is personally, financially and professionally independent from Ashburton Town Council.

210 audit tests were carried out, the result demonstrating the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls during the 2025/26 financial year.

Cllr. Snowsill proposed to accept the independence of the Internal Auditor and note the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls.; seconded by Cllr. Pugh.

RESOLVED

085.26 To receive and accept the revised 2025-2026 Asset Register.

The Clerk explained to Council that there had been an historic error in the brought forward balances of the Asset Register. An incorrect figure of £77,158.32 had been previously agreed. Upon explanation and presentation of the revised Asset Register, Cllr. Distin proposed that the new, correct figure of £100,130.86 was agreed, seconded by Cllr. Giles.

RESOLVED

086.26 To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2025-26.

The Clerk presented the Annual Governance Statement covering each Assertion and the explanation of any 'No' responses. Cllr. Snowsill proposed that they be accepted and signed; seconded by Cllr. Pugh. The Chair and Clerk signed the Statement.

RESOLVED

087.26 To approve and sign the Accounting Statements 2025-26.

The Clerk presented the Accounting Statements. Cllr. Bovey proposed acceptance of the Accounting Statements; seconded by Cllr. Pugh. The Chair signed the Statements.

RESOLVED

088.26 To note the dates for the exercise of public rights under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Sections 26 and 27 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI2015/234).

The Clerk explained the legal requirements of the exercise of public rights and the importance of adhering to the correct timescale, this being Thursday 11th June to Wednesday 22nd July. Cllr. Giles proposed agreement with this timescale; seconded by Cllr. Coles.

RESOLVED

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

The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed.

090.26 To agree to appoint the Town Warden/Relief Caretaker.

The Clerk explained the role and recent interview of an applicant for this position. Cllr. Turner, who was on the interview panel, proposed that the position be offered to the applicant. Both Cllr Bovey and Snowsill recommended that the offer be subject to references and dependent on this Cllr. Snowsill seconded the proposal. Discussion ensued as to the disposal of green waste, and this topic will be added to the next Finance meeting.

ACTION

091.26 To receive the report from the Chair of the General Purposes committee and receive the recommendation to adopt the Town Hall Dog Policy.

Discussion ensued about the road crossing at Dolbeare Meadow. This has previously been refused but Councillors would like the decision to be reviewed. **ACTION**

A Town Hall Dog Policy had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr. Giles requested that it be amended to include all of the upstairs of the Town Hall not just the rooms. With this amendment Cllr. Giles proposed that the policy be adopted; seconded by Cllr. Snowsill.

RESOLVED

092.26 To agree the action to be taken regarding the transfer of Kingsbridge Lane car parks.

Cllr. Wood's report was presented. She explained that residents have strong feelings and as representatives of the community the Council must pass this on. Cllr. Snowsill suggested the addition of a paragraph about the lack of CIL and S106. Cllr. Giles proposed that this document is sent to Teignbridge; seconded by Cllr. Pugh.

RESOLVED

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

Cllr. Turner reported that she had attended the AGM of BYP and will deliver a report next month.

The Clerk advised that the office had prepared a biodiversity policy and asked the Chair of General Purposes if it could be included on the next agenda. This was agreed. **ACTION**

Cllr Distin asked a volunteer to attend a site visit to the possible new allotments at Glendinnings. He also suggested a full council visit later in the year. Cllr. Coles will attend.

Cllr. Wood passed on thanks from the GP Surgery for the bike racks.

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

It was suggested that details of Moor Car and the requirement to re-register for Devon Home Choice be included. Cllr. Pugh added the requirement for a chef for the Ashburton Christmas Dinner.

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

Cllr Wood asked that climate emergency issues be added as a standing agenda item on GP agendas. This was agreed. **ACTION**

Cllr Wood thanked those present and closed the meeting at 21.18

Signed ……………………………………… (Chair) Date ……………………………

Action Points Arising from the Full Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers

090.26 To agree to appoint the Town Warden/Relief Caretaker.
The Clerk to chase references for the applicant.

091.26 To receive the report from the Chair of the General Purposes committee and receive the recommendation to adopt the Town Hall Dog Policy.
Clerk's office to investigate the possibility of a road crossing being installed T Dolbeare Meadow.

093.26 To receive the Councillors' reports of attendance at sub-committees and meetings of other organisations.
The draft biodiversity policy to be added to the agenda of the next General Purposes committee meeting.

095.26 Matters raised by Councillors for information only or on a future agenda
Climate emergency issues to be added to each future GP agenda.

Mayor's Report – Full Council, Tuesday 9th June 2026 **ITEM 080.26**

My first weekend following my appointment as Mayor was both busy and rewarding. I attended the Pensioners' Coffee Morning, the Spring Incon Singers' performance entitled *Make Believe*, which was a truly magical event, and the second screening of the National Emergency Briefing film at the Town Hall. The screening was very well attended and was followed by an engaging discussion about how Ashburton might respond to the issues raised in the film.

We are currently awaiting an update from ACE regarding the next steps arising from this work, and I anticipate that Ashburton Town Council will play a full and active role in any future developments.

On Saturday, Ashburton Surgery hosted its first community coffee morning, organised by representatives of the Patient Participation Group (PPG). This represents an important step for the surgery as it seeks to increase its visibility within the community and strengthen collaboration with local organisations for the benefit of residents' health and wellbeing.

The Asset Management Working Group meeting held last week was attended by several members of the public. It generated constructive discussions regarding the future management of local assets, approaches being taken by other councils, and the funding challenges associated with asset transfer. As members are aware, we are working to a challenging timetable on this matter. Following these discussions, I believe we are now in a position to inform Teignbridge District Council that we are actively considering taking on responsibility for:

- Kingsbridge Lane Car Park
- The Recreation Ground
- Cleder Place Grass Area and Play Park
- Public Toilets

Our Annual Meeting also generated valuable contributions from residents. The comments and suggestions received have been noted and will help inform the Council's forthcoming Strategic Priority Setting discussions, which are expected to take place within the next month. The date for this meeting will be confirmed shortly.

I am keen that our strategic priorities are reviewed and updated to reflect the changing environment in which the Council operates. Equally important is ensuring that our focus remains on the issues that matter most to residents. As a community, we continue to face both the challenges of climate change and the ongoing cost-of-living pressures, both of which have a significant impact on the daily lives, choices, and wellbeing of local people. Our priorities should reflect these realities and guide our efforts accordingly.

Cllr Lucy Wood

Ashburton Town Council

Appendix 2 – Police Report

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

9TH JUNE 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 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 1/05/2026 to 31/05/2026 in the Ashburton beat area there has been a total of 38 Incident Reports of a varying nature logged resulting 21 Occurrence Reports being raised that required further investigation under the following categories:

Public Safety and Concern for Welfare: 7
Violence less serious: 6
ASB Nuisance: 1
Theft: 1
Suspicious Circumstances: 2
Burglary Business/Community: 1
Police Generated & Administration: 3

Appendix 3 – DCC Report

DCC Report – Cllr. Stuart Rogers, Tuesday 9th June 2026 **ITEM 082.26**

Good evening, clerks, and Councillors.

Additional funds have been available for highways.
Please ensure highways defects are reported.
https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/

Funding and resources are available for Road Warden scheme.
Please contact me for further information.
https://www.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/self-help/road-warden-scheme

July 2026 will see Devon Authorities notified by UK Government of future on the Unitary Authorities.
I & other elected members are seeking further information.
The decision will invoke UK Government statutory process.

I have included Teignbridge District Council 2026/27 so Clerks can have sight of precepts.
I am committed to keeping you updated.

If you and your community have any knowledge of Vulnerable Persons who need assistance, please advise (Link Attached).
https://www.devonservices.org.uk/categories/advice-and-support/

Financial decisions before local government reorganisation - GOV.UK
Paragraph 7 confirms they expect to issue Section 24 notices:

7. *The government intends again to issue directions under section 24 of the 2007 Act, once Structural Changes Orders have been made, to specify a person to give consent for all relevant matters and how that power is to be exercised. We anticipate that these directions will follow the precedents previously set, namely that written consent from the successor council will be required for land disposals worth more than £100,000, entering contracts of more than £1,000,000 for capital and entering contracts of more than £100,000 for non-capital (whole life costs).*

In previous instances, a 'general consent' has been given by the new authority to enable finishing authorities to operate effectively: the Somerset example is detailed here: Section 24 Direction and the General and Specific Consents Issued by the Executive of Somerset but the decision to do this, and the details of any general consent would be a for the new shadow authority to make. Clarity will be required and be assured you will kept updated.

In February 2026 Teignbridge District voted for
Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact Financial The proposed expenditure will solely be funded through allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds received from developers. The proposed fund earmarks £200,000 of this levy per year for up-to match funding of project brought forward by Towns and Parishes for 4 financial years commencing 2026/27

Full Council also voted for £1 Million over financial period 2026/27 & 2027/28

https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/media/3xifnzbu/parish-precepts.pdf

Appendix 4 – TDC Report

TDC REPORT – Cllr. John Nutley, Tuesday 9th June 2026 **TEM 083.26**

Play Parks Improvement Project

Play Parks Improvement Project and the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 funding to enable a prioritised programme of improvements to a number of Council owned play parks across Teignbridge.

The investment for the proposed prioritisation and delivery approach, the engagement activity that will inform decisions, governance arrangements, and the financial, legal, risk and climate implications of the programme will be to……

1. Approve the Play Parks Improvement Project and the proposed phased approach to governance, engagement, prioritisation, funding allocation, and delivery.

2. Approve the use of £1 million of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to support the programme, to be used alongside available Section 106 contributions.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects and the Head of Finance, to finalise programme scoring matrix, prioritisation, engagement activity, funding allocations and delivery arrangements, including asset transfer packages where appropriate.

Village Style Changing Rooms

There were a lot of concerns when we carried out the refurbishment of the Broadmeadow Sports Centre and introduced the 'Village Style' changing rooms which a lot of Leisure and Sports Centres of done across the country. These are single sex changing / shower rooms and there were concerns that men could go into a women's / girl's room. All the cubicles have lockable doors with full length partitions. There is also a larger family changing cubical. Despite the concerns from a female councillor and a women's group, as mentioned below, Teignbridge is only one of nineteen authorities to comply with the Supreme Court's judgment.

We are now looking to carry out the refurbishment of our Dawlish Leisure Centre, and taking measures at the Newton Abbot Leisure Centre to address some on the concerns mentioned.

Executive Summary: WOMEN'S RIGHTS NETWORK 06

The investigation shows: Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made by the WRN Research Group to 317 county councils, district councils, and other reveal wholesale lack of compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and women's right to single-sex spaces and services

The FOI requests also show that far too many local authorities use the language of activism and focus on self-declared gender identity and so-called inclusion at the expense of women's rights.

159 local authorities are 'waiting for guidance' before reviewing their policies to ensure they comply with the law.

21 local authorities have begun or completed reviews of their policies but will not act on their findings until they receive further 'guidance'.

Only 19 local authorities are confident their policies are legally compliant which TDC is one of them and complies to the Supreme Court's judgment. — a mere 6% of the 317 authorities subjected to FOI requests.

At least 17 of the 118 authorities which did not specifically mention guidance in their response to WRN's FOI requests have policies which are likely to be unlawful.

Latest A382 update

Devon County Council has published its latest newsletter with an update on the A382 improvements.

It has been another productive month, with significant progress taking place both above and below ground. Further works are also planned over the coming months as the development continues.

Read the latest newsletter

Appendix 5 – Annual Internal Audit Report

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Ashburton Town Council

ashburtontowncouncil.gov.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	Yes		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Yes		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Yes		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Yes		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			N/A
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	Yes		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Yes		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	Yes		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	Yes		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. *(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")*			N/A
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	Yes		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations *(during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).*	Yes		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR *(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).*	Yes		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.	Yes		
	Yes	**No**	**Not applicable**
P. **(For local councils only)** Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			N/A

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken: 10/06/2025 08/10/2025

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: **Kevin Rose ACMA- IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd**

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:

Date: 05/06/2026

***If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).**

Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report **must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).