



# Ashburton Town Council

**Minutes of the Assets Working Group meeting  
held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm  
in the Information Centre.**

**Present:** Cllrs. Bovey, Distin, Giles, Snowsill, Turner and Wood. S Rhodes, S Walker, G Tarsky, A Hill-Smith, A Spendlove.

**In attendance:** Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and 5 members of the public.

Cllr. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

## **020.26AW Election of Chair**

Cllr. Turner proposed Cllr. Snowsill as Chair; seconded by Cllr. Giles.

**RESOLVED**

## **021.26AW Election of Deputy Chair**

Cllr. Snowsill proposed G Tarsky as Deputy Chair; seconded by Cllr. Bovey.

**RESOLVED**

## **022.26AW Apologies.**

The Clerk noted apologies had been received from Cllr. Coles, Cllr. Pugh, Cllr. Searight, D Sterling, A & S Prince, E & R Baker, all due to prior commitments. The absence of Cllr. Nutley was also noted, although no apologies were received.

## **023.26AW Declaration of Interest.**

None received.

## **024.26AW To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

The Clerk explained that some assets had already been voted against at the recent Full Council meeting but TDC had not yet been advised. There being no actions outstanding, A Hill-Smith proposed that these minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting; seconded by A Spendlove.

**ACTION**

## **025.26AW To receive an update on the formation of a resident's association in respect of Amberley Close.**

K Dowsett explained the current situation regarding setting up a resident's association - it is in progress and the Council will be kept up to date. Further requests for information have been sent

to DNP and TDC with no response to date. Enquiries have also been made about the creation of “village green status”. The main objective is to retain the green space.

**026.26 To discuss costs involved in taking on specific assets.**

The Clerk explained the difficulty in obtaining details of costs for each asset from TDC. There had been one instance of two people receiving completely diverse information for the same asset. It was noted that some of the assets showing low expenditure over the last five years will require a lot more being spent in the early months of takeover. G Tarsky noted that any assets taken will probably have to be taken “as is” and any costs for renewals/refurbishments be borne by the Council. Cllr. Snowsill proposed that a portion of the budget currently held for asset maintenance is used to get an assessment of the likely costs involved if certain assets are taken on; seconded by G Tarsky.

**ACTION**

**027.26AW To consider setting up a CIC (or similar) to manage play parks.**

The Deputy Clerk explained the premise of a CIC (Community Interest Company). Cllr. Turner reminded those present of the invisible extra costs, for example - the possible requirement for extra staffing hours, if additional assets are taken on. Cllr. Turner suggested holding another open day to gauge public opinion for a “Friends of –” group. The opinion of the meeting was that a CIC could be set up for the play parks but possibly not for the green spaces. Cllr. Wood noted that it may be useful to talk to ACE about the green spaces; seconded by Cllr. Snowsill. Cllr. Wood offered to do this.

**ACTION**

**028.26AW To consider setting up a CIC (or similar) to manage Ashburton’s green spaces.**

This item was discussed under 027.26AW.

**029.26AW Any other business.**

A Hill-Smith stated that she sits on ACE. They would like to purchase 7.5 acres of land on the outskirts of Ashburton for £155,000. It is agricultural land and aligns with ACE’s vision is for allotments, an orchard or something similar. G Tarsky requested an explanation of the stated 4 month timeline to decide which assets the Council wish to take on. Cllr. Turner explained that a firm intention of which assets the Council are interested in needs to be submitted by October. A parish poll was then discussed and options as to how this could be carried out. S Walker reminded Councillors of the dangers of calling TDC’s bluff regarding assets. Cllr. Turner reported that Cllr. Wood has written a draft document creating a legal base for Ashburton Town Council to take on the Kingsbridge Lane car parks. This will be presented at the next Full Council meeting.

**ACTION**

Cllr. Snowsill thanked those present and closed the meeting at 20.30

Signed ..... (Chair)      Date .....

**Action Points Arising from the Asset Working Group Meeting**

**Held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm in the Information Centre**

**024.26AW To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

Clerk to advise TDC of the asses that Ashburton Town Council do not wish to take on.

**026.26 To discuss costs involved in taking on specific assets.**

Clerk's office to arrange for an assessment of the likely costs involved if certain assets are taken on.

**027.26AW To consider setting up a CIC (or similar) to manage play parks.**

Cllr. Wood to speak to members of ACE about the possibility of them taking on green spaces.

**029.26AW Any other business.**

Draft legal document to be taken to the next Full Council meeting for further discussion.