

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Pam Barrett (Chair), Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Janet Jones, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey, Simon Rines, Neil Smith, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: No Press in attendance

In attendance: Cllr John Nutley (District & Ashburton TC) and 7 members of the public.

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/51. Apologies:

Councillors: Dan Simpson, Stuart Barker (District & County), Charlie Dennis (District) and Kate Cotton (Mid Devon Advertiser)

16/52. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None .

16/53. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th May 2016:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

16/54. Questions raised by the Public:

A member of the public offered congratulations to the Council concerning the publication of the new Town Guide.

Questions were raised concerning the by-election process including publicity, expenses, canvassing and a suggestion for a husting which were addressed by the Chair.

A member of the public had identified footpaths which are overgrown for the attention of the Park Ranger and confirmed that the 'Walking for Health' group meets every other Wednesday.

Other matters raised by the public were deferred to later in the meeting as part of the agenda.

16/55. Police Report:

No report available.

16/56. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:

Cllr John Nutley: A Homelessness Strategy is due to be endorsed by Teignbridge District Council (TDC) and will form part of the Forward Plan. This will include a process for ex-forces personnel and ex-prisoners.

There is no guarantee of a service from the Devon and Somerset Superfast Broadband initiative and TDC have agreed to contribute £500,000 to this. £100,000 has been spent on

the 'Big Weekend' by the District Council and £13 million has been allocated for a new shopping centre in Newton Abbot.

Cllr Simon Rines: A breakdown of the budget per capita spend would be useful for Buckfastleigh.

The Chair summarised the report provided by Cllr Stuart Barker which confirmed that the new bus shelter on Plymouth Road has been completed and Bossell Road will be resurfaced in August.

Devon County Council (DCC) are carrying out a 'temperature check' survey to assess views on whether Devon is a good place to live which is available online.

Additional funding has been made available for road maintenance.

Action: Clerk to report the condition of Fore Street and Chapel Street to Cllr Barker and create a 'How to report a highways maintenance problem' page on the Council website.

Member of the public: Concern re lack of police visibility in the town.

Cllr Pam Barrett: People are encouraged to report incidents so that these are recorded and resources can then be deployed for Buckfastleigh. The 101 number can be used for all non-emergency calls or alternatively speak to the PCSO for the town.

Cllr Janet Jones: Police surgeries are held monthly at St. Luke's to coincide with the coffee mornings and there is a police comment box in the Town Hall.

16/57. Review of actions from previous meetings and working parties:

Community Development Fund Application - Following one minor amendment it was agreed to publish and launch this new fund once the budget for this has been confirmed.

Decision: Resolved

Boundary Stone – Request from Cllr Janet Jones for the Council to fund the £40.00 + VAT cost for Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) to place an engraved boundary stone at Hockmoor Head beside the public bench. It was noted that there is no charge for the engraving.

Decision: All Members in agreement

Footpaths, parking, litter picking and dog fouling – It was agreed that eye-catching publicity is required to attract volunteers and generate community interest in these topics.

Footpaths - DNPA will be carrying out maintenance work to the paths around Church Hill, but volunteers are needed to help with a range of activities.

Action: Cllr J. Jones to contact the ramblers and walking groups and involve the Church. Clerk to liaise with the Park Ranger regarding publicity.

Cllr Simon Rines: A factsheet as to who to contact to advertise an event would be useful.

Cllr Andy Stokes: Another community engagement event is needed to promote activities.

Parking - Cllr Simon Rines: A transport survey carried out as part of the Neighbourhood Plan includes parking.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The findings of this survey could be published.

Action: Cllrs Rines and Stokes to summarise the survey and Cllr Rines to continue to pursue the A38 flyover site improvements proposal.

Litter picking – Cllr Pam Barrett: Communities are encouraged to undertake rubbish walks and promote “Keep Britain Tidy” initiatives. The Council now has litter pickers and Hi-viz vests that can be signed out to volunteers.

Cllr Andy Stokes: A “Clean Buckfastleigh Day” could be organised.

Action: It was agreed that a litter picking evening is held on 20th June at 7.00pm and to advertise for volunteers from the community.

Dog fouling – Cllr Mark Maish has discussed this issue with the TDC Dog Warden.

Action: A meeting is to be arranged by Cllr Simon Rines and it was suggested that funding should be sought from TDC towards the use of sprayed pavement slogans to deter dog fouling, further signage and new dog waste bins.

Cllr Linus McCloskey left the meeting at 8.45pm

Members agreed that three projects have been identified as a result of this discussion – footpaths, litter picking and dog fouling.

Helipad – Cllr Janet Jones has had a further meeting with South West Air Ambulance and quotes have been obtained for new sustainable LED lighting at the agreed football field site. Three funding bids for £11 – 12,000 will be submitted. The lighting will be used by both the helicopter and the football club. Letters of support will however, be required for these bids.

Review of Emergency Plan – Cllr Pam Barrett: The original plan needs to be reviewed and updated. Key stakeholders should be invited to be involved in ensuring the plan meets local needs and to look at triggers and cascade methods to activate the plan when required.

Action: Cllrs Barrett, Jones, Fox and the Clerk to consider who should be invited to be involved to work on a revised plan.

Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan update– Cllr Simon Rines: A report is to be produced by the consultancy from Locality.

Action: Cllr Rines to arrange a steering group meeting, invite the original members of the group and send out the draft Neighbourhood Plan to those involved.

Review of Devon Minerals Plan update – Cllr Simon Rines: Numerous submissions have been forwarded as part of the review process. The planning inspector will examine the revised plan which will then have a second consultation. 199 modifications have been made regarding clarity, errors and lack of acknowledgement to relevant issues.

Whitecleave Quarry Mediation Process – It was noted that the independent mediator will not accept any pre-conditions to this process of mediation between DCC, the Town Council and other associated parties.

Action – Clerk to chase up the proposed dates and times for a meeting. Cllrs Rines and Smith have been appointed to represent the Council.

16/58. To receive the minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee held on 1st June 2016:

Noted

16/59. Chairman’s Announcements: None

16/60. Clerk’s Announcements: Reminder that the July Town Council meeting has been moved forward to Wednesday 20th July.

16/61. Correspondence:

i) DNPA – notice of the Communities Fund 2016/17 for Dartmoor Communities.
Action – Clerk to check if Buckfastleigh is eligible to apply as this has not been the case on previous occasions.

ii) Response to Devolution Bid letter sent on 28th April 2016 to the Greg Clark MP received on 3rd June. It was noted that the response was from the Department of Cities and Local Growth Unit.

Members disputed the contents of the letter. It was felt that this process has been rushed through under the threat of the withdrawal of funding to local authorities. A combined authority Mayor is a new condition which has been introduced and that Hinckley Point power station is a fundamental part of the Government energy policy.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The Devolution prospective from the Heart of the South West is the driving force.

Decision – Members agreed that the Council should respond to this letter listing actual facts. Cllr Stokes to draft a letter with contributions from Cllrs Barrett and Rines.

iii) A draft complaint to DCC has been compiled by Cllr Rines regarding the planning process for the height restriction application for Whitecleave Quarry.

Cllr Simon Rines: It is not within the remit of the planning department at DCC to introduce amendments to an application. The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Planning Inspector report have all been ignored. Statutory consultees were not consulted regarding this change.

Cllr Mark Maish requested the support of the District Councillors in this matter.

Cllr Pam Barrett: Proper planning procedures and legislation should be followed.

Cllr Andy Stokes suggested that action could be taken against DCC.

Action – Cllr Andy Stokes proposed that Cllr Rine’s draft letter is sent to the Complaints Dept at DCC which was seconded by Cllr Smith with all members in agreement.

16/62. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Fanny Jackson: A 1940’s evening has been arranged in the Town Hall on Friday 1st July to raise funds for a cooker to be installed in the green kitchen of the Town Hall.

Cllr Jackson has also looked at the possibility of touring theatrical companies using the Town Hall for performances. The drama and pantomime groups have been asked to remove items that are being stored in the Town Hall.

The Buckfastleigh Wildspace AGM will take place on 14th June 2016 regarding the wildlife garden to the rear of the Town Hall.

Cllr Janet Jones: The Teignbridge Association of Local Councils (TALC) minutes have been circulated for information following a recent meeting where the boundary review and new cycling routes were discussed.

Cllr Jones and the Clerk have attended a meeting with a representative of the NPS group, who are overseeing the transfer of local libraries to Libraries Ltd, concerning the negotiation of a new lease with the Town Hall Trust.

A Town Hall Trust meeting is being arranged by the Town Hall Administrator and it has been proposed that a management committee is created for the day to day management of the Trust in addition to the Trustees who currently fulfil this purpose.

Cllr Neil Smith suggested that the Trust could meet with the South Brent Community Hall committee as an example of a hall committee.

Cllr Andy Stokes: Collection and storage of the redundant solar panels for the Town Hall roof and other sites in the town is still to be arranged.

16/63. Urgent Items:

The meeting closed at 10.01pm.

Signed.....

Date.....