

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Pam Barrett (Chair), Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Janet Jones, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

**Press:** No press in attendance.

**In attendance:** 4 members of the public and Andrew Turner for Agenda Item No 2)

## **Part I (Open to the Public)**

**17/33. Apologies:** Councillors Mark Maish, Dan Simpson, Simon Rines, Neil Smith and Stuart Barker (District & County).

**17/34. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**17/35. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017:**

Signed and approved by Cllr. Pam Barrett

**17/36. Questions raised by the Public and representation by Andrew Turner re allotments in Buckfastleigh:**

A member of the public raised the same question from the public session in the Annual Town Council Meeting held earlier in the evening: *“Is the Council endorsing a candidate in the forthcoming General Election? If yes, who and why, if no, why not?”*

The same response was provided:-

Cllr Pam Barrett and the Town Clerk explained that the Town Council would not be endorsing any candidate in the General Election. Individual Councillors are free to endorse any candidate they chose and to stand for election for any party as they wish but the Town Council has no position on the matter.

A local resident and youth worker expressed her concerns about allegations of increasing drugs and alcohol usage amongst younger people in the town. In some instances, older people are influencing behaviour and that there is a notable lack of police presence and other effective interventions.

Member of the public: *Suitably trained staff requires funding. Both youth clubs in the town could however, undertake some preventative work.*

The Town Council agreed that it would like to discuss the matter further and consider whether it was possible to provide some support to fund specialist youth worker help. It was suggested that Ashburton Town Council could be invited to work with Buckfastleigh on this initiative and share resources.

A Pubwatch meeting, facilitated by the Town Council, will meet on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 with representatives of Buckfastleigh Coop to discuss the sale of alcohol.

The police acknowledge that the 'Zero Tolerance' policy at Christmas did contribute to making a difference and that the Council will be promoting a summer campaign with the licensees. It is important that the public report incidents to the police as the allocation of funding is linked to the statistics recorded for each community. Everyone must take responsibility for the safety of the whole parish together with education for parents and peer group ambassadors.

**Action:** Clerk to contact the Ashburton Clerk to ask if Ashburton Town Council would be interested in working in partnership and to set up a working party to discuss the matter in more detail.

Andrew Turner, a local resident, gave an informal presentation about the lack of allotments within the parish. The main site to the rear of Fore Street is privately owned. A map is being undertaken to record all the plots which are currently all occupied. There is a waiting list for allotment space which demonstrates that there is a demand. The Clerk has been asked to keep a register of interest.

There are two other smaller allotment areas in the town, one owned by Teignbridge District Council (TDC) which is currently part of the disposal of assets discussion with the Town Council, and one behind Sherwill Court which may belong to Devonian, but this has not been confirmed. The Council wants to provide allotments and preserve these sites for future generations.

The Town Council has the power to provide allotments and recognises the importance of the Fore Street site to the community. It was agreed that Andrew Turner would act as the Town Council contact for the allotments and that we would work with the owner and look to ensure that they are retained for community use in the future.

Cllr Andy Stokes also asked that guidelines concerning the keeping of livestock is implemented.

**Action:** Andrew agreed to work with Cllrs Stokes and Maish. The Council is also looking at other plots of land and open spaces in the parish and will be developing a policy to this effect.

### **17/37. Police report:**

No report available for this meeting.

### **17/38. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:**

Cllr John Nutley reported that TDC are looking at parking issues, but figures will not be available until after June 2017.

The Chair read out a report provided by Cllr Stuart Barker:-

- Cllr Barker supports the highways additions requested by the Town Council and residents for the proposed additional traffic orders to Plymouth Road between the entrance to Victoria Park and the pedestrian gate that provides rear access to the row of terraced cottages.
- Planning permission has just been approved so that the quarry operator at Whitecleave Quarry can relocate to another site in Devon. To continue mineral working a revised work plan would be required once the current one expires. It is not anticipated that a revised plan will be submitted.
- The Council is encouraged with respect to the draft Neighbourhood Plan to consider a dialogue with the landowner to reach agreement regarding the future of the site.

Members expressed concern that there are no assurances that the quarry will not be used for an alternative industrial use and the meeting was reminded that the Planning Inspector had recommended that the site is returned to its natural state.

The Chair moved the meeting to Agenda Item No: 7):-

**17/39. Town Council Projects update:**

Cllr Pam Barrett gave an update regarding the new youth activities project and the evidence collated from the young person's survey carried out in March. The £3,000 allocated in the 2017/18 budget will be used to fund a holiday activities programme based on the four most popular and achievable activities identified from the survey – swimming, arts and crafts, cookery and soft play.

Cllr Fanny Jackson expressed concern about the lack of activities for children of 14 years and over, but it was acknowledged that £3,000 is not enough to fund or organise adventurous sports and day trips such as kayaking. An 'Awards for All' bid was submitted by the Town Council on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and grant funding will continue to be sought. It was agreed that achievable activities could initially be delivered during the summer holidays as there is currently no capacity to deliver larger projects without a dedicated organiser. A wide range of issues would need to be in place such as the management of activities, DBS checks, a welfare policy, fees, subsidies etc before this project can be developed further.

It is understood that cookery lessons are now being offered at the Bungalow Youth Project for teenagers. The Youth Club is also looking to introduce cookery classes to its users.

Cllr John Nutley: District and County Councillor funding could also be applied for to support this project.

Cllr Pam Barrett will be meeting with a local youth worker and working with other organisations to address the gaps using existing resources, but this will require a lot of work to coordinate.

The meeting returned to the agenda and resumed discussion regarding item No. 7) later in the meeting.

**17/40. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017: Noted.**

To resolve the following recommendations from Minute Nos:

17/07. Draft End of Year Accounts 2016/17 – recommended to Internal Audit

17/08. End of Year Bank Balances 2016/17 – recommended to Internal Audit

17/09. Review of Town Council Insurance – agreed to renew the insurance policy with the existing insurer for a fixed term of three years.

**17/41. Approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17:**

Members approved the Annual Governance Statement which was signed by the Chair and Town Clerk.

**17/42. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017: Noted.**

**17/43. Town Council Projects update:**

- Town Ranger – the successful candidate turned down this position which has now been re-advertised.

- Helipad – Devon Air Ambulance have received a letter from TDC questioning the competence of their pilots which Toby Russell, the Community Helipads Development Officer will respond to.
- Community solar panels – An invitation to quote for the installation of the solar panels has been carried out by the Town Hall Administrator and Cllr Stokes will meet with the prospective contractors with respect to the Town Hall and swimming pool.
- Buckfastleigh Swimming Pool – the pool will be open from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017.
- The CAB outreach service – Cllr Linus McCloskey reported that the service is progressing well. Enquiries are mostly for benefits with some debt management, housing and relationship breakdown cases. Cllr McCloskey was asked to provide a report at a later date if possible.
- Community Development Fund – Clerk to promote for the new financial year.

**17/44. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:**

The Chair explained how the projects are being managed, delivered and funded, what research may be required and the possible need to outsource for help. Currently agreed projects are being managed and delivered using significant amounts of Councillors voluntary time with assistance from the Town Clerk. The Council needs to ensure that any further projects agreed include costs and resourcing associated with planning and delivery of the activity.

The Council is aware that there are a number of other potential projects which the community may wish to be developed including the transfer of assets, creation of allotments, further development of the youth programme, CCTV and community transport. We also need to ensure the ongoing viability of current projects.

**Action:** It was agreed that this year's first community budget engagement event should be arranged for July to ask the community for their views on what should be delivered in future years. We should also develop an online project plan to track decisions, actions and progress of the projects.

**17/45. Applications for grant funding towards the grass cutting at Holy Trinity Church under Section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972 for 2017/18 and the South Devon Railway Road Services Vintage Bus under Section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

Cllr Janet Jones abstained from voting re the Holy Trinity Church grass cutting grant application.

**Decision:** Members agreed to continue to support the maintenance of the graveyard at Holy Trinity Church by awarding a grant of £1,800 and acknowledged the work that the Church does to support the community for eg. the Foodbank. Members also unanimously agreed to award a grant of £300 to assist with the running of the vintage bus from the railway during the summer season.

**17/46. Chair's Announcements.** None

**17/47. Clerk's Announcements.**

The Clerk explained that Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Rotary Club are promoting the Purple Crocus project which is the Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate polio. The Club has bought

5000 crocus corms which will be shared between Ashburton and Buckfastleigh and both Town Councils, schools, youth groups etc are encouraged to participate in the planting.

**Decision:** Members agreed to this initiative on behalf of the community.

#### **17/48. Correspondence.**

Email 24.04.17 from TDC – response to letter sent by the Town Council on 15.03.17 re alleged aggressive ticketing in car parks in Buckfastleigh. Email acknowledged.

**Action:** Clerk to publish this information on the Council's social media.

Letter 02.05.17 from Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards further to correspondence exchanged between the Council and Mel Stride MP re proposed funding cuts – Noted.

**Action:** Clerk to publish as above.

Email 28.04.17 from Dartmoor National Park Authority re proposal to introduce parking charges to some of the car parks within the Park. Noted that this proposal will be going to consultation after the June General Election.

#### **17/49. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members.**

Cllr Andy Stokes advised that the cycle strategy group is now called Cycle South Dartmoor. Sustrans are carrying out a feasibility study for a cycle route from Plymouth to Ashburton. Consultation with Devon highways and Highways England will be undertaken.

It was noted that the 'Mayor's Good Causes Fund' (£500) has been awarded towards the cost of the feasibility study and it was suggested that Buckfastleigh could be a cycling centre of excellence.

Cllrs Janet Jones and Fanny Jackson attended a Wildspace meeting. Workshops are being arranged for the summer season.

Cllr Fanny Jackson will be taking over the running of the Buckfastleigh Drama and Pantomime Groups.

Cllrs Pam Barrett and Greg Porter will be holding a Councillor's surgery on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The Sports and Colourscape weekend has been confirmed for 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July. Buckfast Abbey has kindly agreed to accommodate the Colourscape staff for the duration of the weekend for free which will reduce costs incurred by the Council.

**17/50. Urgent Items:** None.

**Meeting Closed at 9:30pm.**

Signed ..... Date.....