

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7:40pm

Present: Pam Barrett (Chair), Janet Jones, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: No press in attendance.

In attendance: 2 members of the public.

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/06. Apologies: Councillors Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Dan Simpson, Simon Rines, Neil Smith and J. Nutley (District).

Cllr Pamela Forbes did not attend

17/07. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

17/08. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2017:

Signed and approved by Cllr. Pam Barrett

17/09. Questions raised by the Public:

Member of the public: *The Dog Warden has been contacted regarding a recent dog fouling incident and he responded with the use of spray pavement paint and stencils to highlight the issue.*

The Chair confirmed that Members of the Town Council will be walking around the parish with pavement spray, dog waste bags and educational material for dog walkers in the near future to highlight to this problem.

17/10. Police report:

No report available for this meeting.

17/11. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:

No reports provided for this meeting.

17/12. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 22nd March 2017:

Noted.

17/13. To receive the minutes of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 4th April 2017:

Noted with an update about the proposed visit by 'Colourscape' which is an interactive park-sized, air-supported structure that provides a sensory experience to the visitor. The project is Arts Council

funded, but will require a financial contribution from the Council for two weekend bookings, one to be held in 2017 and one in 2018 with a nominal entrance fee.

It has been agreed that the structure will be sited next to the football pitch on Duckspond playing field and will be arranged for the same weekend in July as the sports festival. It was suggested that the vintage bus could be used to ease parking congestion.

Decision: Members unanimously agreed to underwrite the £3,000 cost required to enable 'Colourscape' to visit Buckfastleigh.

17/14. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 5th April 2017:

Noted.

17/15. Town Council Projects update:

- Town Ranger – the position has been offered to the successful applicant with a view to starting in early May 2017.
- Helipad – John Bailey, Chair of Buckfastleigh Rangers Football Club has reported that the process is being delayed by Teignbridge District Council and he has been asked to keep the Clerk up-to-date with progress.
- Youth activities – the first stage of this project commenced with a consultation and drop-in session held on 20th March 2017, as detailed in the Annual Town Meeting earlier in the evening. Soft play sessions could be arranged reasonably quickly, but more funding is needed for other activities. Halina Pasiecznik of Vivid Regeneration has been commissioned to undertake stage 2 to apply for funding, firstly with an 'Awards for All' bid. The Council will need to start to plan and select the simplest and most achievable activities, but this can only be achieved with volunteers and adequate publicity. This project must be sustainable to progress.
- The CAB outreach service – Cllr Linus McCloskey was pleased to report that the weekly service will be able to continue due to holiday cover being arranged.
- The Town Hall – The Council continues its commitment to the Town Hall.
- Buckfastleigh Swimming Pool - Victoria Park is already open and the pool will open for the summer season on Saturday 27th May.
- Community solar panels – installation costs need to be assessed and the Town Hall Administrator has been asked to obtain quotes.

17/16. Chair's Announcements. None

17/17. Clerk's Announcements.

A hand-made thank-you card from the Friendship Group had been received following the recent grant awarded by the Town Council. Noted.

17/18. Correspondence.

Letter from Mel Stride MP dated 05.04.27 in response to the letter sent by the Town Council concerning the proposed funding cuts to schools by the Government. It was agreed that this letter did not address the direct questions asked by the Council and that most children will be effected by the cuts despite the contents of the letter.

Action: Clerk to upload both letters to the Town Council website. It was noted that it is important to separate the statistics between Buckfastleigh and Ashburton.

17/19. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members.

Cllrs Mark Maish: Concerns by residents have been brought to the attention of the Council that Teignbridge District Council (TDC) is using glyphosate based herbicides at Duckspound playing field to control weeds.

Cllr Maish has spoken to both the TDC officer and the contractor who have agreed to stop using these products if formally requested to do so by the Town Council. The parks can be strimmed to keep the weeds down and invasive species such as Japanese knotweed are controlled by other means. The use of chemicals in and around play areas and green spaces can affect the health of children and animals and should not be used.

Members agreed that use of glyphosate based products should be stopped immediately and to look at what other chemicals are being used.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to TDC requesting an immediate ban on the use of glyphosate based chemicals and ask what TDC are authorised to use, what is it used for and what alternatives are available.

The above resolution was proposed by Cllr Mark Maish and seconded by Cllr Andy Stokes with all Members in agreement.

Members agreed that the Council needs to look at the management of all the green spaces in the town. Devon Wildlife Trust are keen to make Buckfastleigh a bat friendly town and identify the importance of trees, plants and roosting areas for the bats.

Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) created a management plan for the Orchard Millennium Green (OMG) in 2010 and a community consultation about open spaces and parks should be carried out.

It was suggested that the OMG has a seasonal maintenance programme with the trustees working with the Devon Wildlife Trust Habitats officer, Devon Highways, TDC, the Environment Agency to raise the awareness of bats. It was noted that cutting hedges between 1st March and 31st August is a wildlife crime.

Action: Cllr Pam Barrett proposed that the Council should develop a policy for the management of green space in the parish and consult with the community to see what is wanted and needed and to make advice available to the public and where to source documents. Members agreed to forward this item to the May meeting of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee for further discussion.

Cllr Janet Jones attended a Teignbridge Association of Local Councils meeting with Cllr Fanny Jackson which included a cybercrime presentation by the police and an update on TDC paperless

planning which is not popular with the Town and Parish Clerks due to the additional amount of work this generates.

At a hospital meeting the proposal to move GP surgeries to the new Ashburton Hospital hub is being examined, but this is dependent upon the Ashburton surgery. Buckfastleigh Medical Centre will not re-locate as it already has room to develop on its existing site.

Cllr Andy Stokes met with The Seed regarding the organisation of the 'Big Lunch' event on 18th June to coincide with the 'Big Get Together', 'Big Walk' and National Cycle Week.

Cycle South Devon – Sustran is looking at funding and a feasibility study for a cycle path from Plymouth to Ashburton.

Cllr Pam Barrett: Crowd-funding could be used and consultation with cycle groups around the UK. It is already popular with cyclists to take a train to Plymouth and cycle from there to Dartmoor. Buckfastleigh Community Forum could become involved with this initiative.

17/20. Urgent Items:

Cllr Barrett advised the meeting that DNPA are proposing to introduce parking charges to five of their most popular car parks without consultation with the parishes or concessions to local residents.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to DNPA concerning the lack of consultation or direct information to Councils and the impact this will have on residents' access to the park. It was suggested that there could be a two-tier system for visitors and locals who could apply for a permit. Charges will also encourage parking on verges, off-road parking etc. It was agreed that alternatives should be discussed and that this letter is copied to all the other Town and Parish Councils in Devon who would be effected.

Meeting Closed at 9:07pm.

Signed Date.....