

Minutes of the meeting of Buckfastleigh Town Council held on Wednesday 14th October, 2015 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Buckfastleigh.

Present: Cllr. Barrett (deputy chairman). Cllr. Stokes. Cllr. Hartstein. Cllr. McClosky. Cllr. Jones. Cllr. Simpson. Cllr. Maish. Cllr. Smith. Penny Clapham (locum clerk) 2 members of the Police. 6 members of the public. District Cllr. Nutley.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Barrett in the absence of the Chairman.

1)15/121 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 10 minutes. (Standing Orders 1e and 1f).

The Chairman of the Food Bank reported to Council that the food bank covers an area from Scorrington to Littlehempston; though predominantly Buckfastleigh. 1 in 10 of all households in Buckfastleigh have used the facility since it opened 2 years ago. Food vouchers are given out as this bank is part of the Trussell Trust. The need is going up and is expected to increase when the child tax credits change. Please can an appeal be put out on the town facebook and twitter accounts for tinned, packaged and dried foods.

Councillors are invited to come and visit on Fridays when distribution is open.

Cllr. Stokes enquired if there was anything further Council could do. Cllr. Hartstein asked if the food bank eligible for any grants. Council agreed to agenda this item for November.

2)15/122 Apologies For Absence: County Cllr. Barker. District Cllr. Dennis. Cllr. Rines. Cllr. Fox. Cllr. Squires. Apologies accepted.

3)15/123 Declarations Of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at Teignbridge District Council within 28 days of the change. None declared.

4)15/124 Matters raised by the Chairman (for information) The resignation of Cllr. Coates has been received. Council acknowledge and thank her, for her work as a councillor.

5)15/125 District, County Councillor and Police Reports -

District Cllr. Nutley. Commented that Ashburton food bank has been quiet recently.

District work is going forward with budgeting. The Universal credit equals 6 other credit payments put together as one. Cllr. Nutley considers the child poverty figures of 32.61% in Ashburton and Buckfastleigh are a worrying trend, being the highest in Teignbridge. A housing strategy event has been attended and Cllr. Nutley has left the reports to be read.

Cllr. Barrett asked about the yellow lines needed in Old Totnes Road. This would need a traffic order.

PC Will Young read his report for September. Priority tasking at present is to cope with break-ins; equine equipment has been stolen; there is a horsewatch scheme in place. Police surgery 15th October at 7pm in the town hall. There is no news on the possible police cuts to come. Cllr. Jones will write on behalf of the council as to the value of our police and PCSO here in Buckfastleigh.

Standing orders suspended for a parishioner to speak on the awareness of drugs.

Standing orders resumed.

6)15/126 Minutes – to approve for accuracy and sign the Minutes of the full Council meeting held on the 9th September 2015. Not available at present.

7)15/127 Neighbourhood Planning Group - to receive an update from the working party. Cllr. Barrett informed Council this is still in draft form and is due for further amendments. Additional funding and support has been confirmed from Locality to masterplan the town plan. Requests will be made for technical support for a strategic environmental report.

8)15/128 Cycling Project - to receive the verbal report from the cross parish working party. Cllr. Stokes updated Council with a verbal report. Three communities are involved. Looking at introducing cycling hubs to make it more inviting for cyclists to use the towns with better signage and support from local businesses. The group going forward to source grant funding. A test ride of the proposed route between Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and South Brent is planned as well as a communal ride in the spring.

9)15/129 Whitecleave Quarry Working Party - Council updated. First meeting held on 1st October. Terms of reference for the working party having been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting were agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Barrett, seconded by Cllr. Smith, all in favour by show of hands.

10)15/130 Youth Services Steering Group - Council updated by Cllr. Barrett.

Cllr. Barrett approached Devon Communities Together for support. Devon Communities will draft a report looking at establishing what access to services our youth currently have, age range 8-18 years, using some of the consultation already done, isolating gaps and noting priorities. Council will allocate some money towards the cost of this research. Dawn Ekhart will be back to Council with costings for the November meeting.

FINANCE

11)15/131 Council to agree the following:-

- a) the hire of a locum clerk to cover agenda setting and minutes during the absence of the town clerk due to ill health. Locum fees are £15 per hour plus mileage at 45p per mile
- b) the hire of a temporary administration assistant for the above reason.
- c) the hire of the services of a financial adviser from the Devon Association of Local Councils to assist with the setting of the budget for 2016/17; fee to be advised to Council.

Council resolved to accept a) b) and c) proposed by Cllr. Barrett, seconded by Cllr. Simpson. All in favour by show of hands.

- d) to agree the purchase of a marquee for community use; cost to be advised to Council.

Cllr. Stokes suggested costs required first. Cllr. Simpson will speak to Buckfastleigh railway as they are considering the purchase of a marquee, and report to Council at the November meeting.

12)15/132 Council and Town Hall Trust Finances - to discuss the option of splitting the finances of the Council and the Town Hall. Insufficient information is currently available to action this. Cllr. Smith stated that there should be separate accounts. Council resolved to explore in more detail the separation of the town council finances from the town hall finance proposed by Cllr. Stokes, seconded by Cllr. Barrett. All agreed by show of hands.

Standing orders suspended for a parishioner to speak.

Standing orders resumed.

13)15/133 Community Composting - to agree in principle a community composting scheme and to identify a site. Cllr. Maish updated Council. Meetings have been held within the community. Several sites have been looked at. Further updates will be brought to the January meeting.

MEETINGS ATTENDED - REPORTS from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Maish attended a Whitecleave Quarry Liason Committee meeting, reported to Council. The question of the different species of bats. Any complaints regarding the quarry go to Devon County Council. A noise survey will be taking place. Attended Teignbridge Citizens Advice Bureau. Celebrated 50 years of the Railway.

Cllr. Simpson. Christmas Fair 9th December. Stalls available at £5 each. Victorian themed.

Cllr. Barrett. Swimming pool closed at the end of September. Looking at the possibility of opening during the winter for cold water swimmers. A possible ice event in January. The Flood Group have taken delivery of equipment to help those at risk in the flood area.

Cllr. Stokes. Involved with the food festival which went very well. Apple pressing in the millennium orchard generated income to support local food bank users and mediterranean refugee rescue charity.

Cllr. McCloskey. Attended training with the intention of opening a Citizens Advice Bureau again in Buckfastleigh. Monday 16th November at 2pm a one off training course will be available.

PART II

14)15/134 Council to resolve to exclude public and press from the meeting to progress a confidential staffing issue. (Data Protection Act 1998)

Council resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting. All in favour by show of hands.

15)15/135 To progress a confidential staffing issue.

Council resolved to appoint 2 temporary part-time administration assistants with immediate effect.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Position.....

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, 11th November 2015, 7.30pm at the Town Hall