

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Andy Stokes (Chair), Janet Jones, Pam Barrett, Ron Fox, Huw Cox, Kate Paxman and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: 7 members of the public including the applicant for Agenda Item No.7) and Cllr Phillip Vogel (Ashburton Town Council)

Press: No Press in attendance

19/01. Apologies: Cllrs Pamela Forbes, Dan Simpson and John Nutley (District).

No apologies received from Cllrs Ben Cattrall and Gwena Harman

19/02. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

19/03. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13th March 2019:

Signed and approved by Councillor Andy Stokes

19/04. Questions and comments from the public: None

19/05. To resolve Minute No. 19/81. Proposal to ring-fence budget and grant allocations from 2018/19 for expenditure in 2019/20 – Finance Committee 27th March 2019:

A report had been circulated to Members for consideration at the March Finance Committee. The Chair explained that there had been some underspend of budgets in 2018/19 which has been due to the continuation of projects into the new financial and receipt of grants that were not predicted at the time of setting the budget.

It is proposed that the surplus should be ring-fenced to support the predicted increase in costs for the Citizens Advice Outreach Service, Larger Grants, the Community Development Fund, salaries and the outstanding invoice for the Christmas skate rink. Existing ring-fenced funds for the Solar Panel Project, Bike Bus, Community Infrastructure Levy and Town Clock to be carried over to 2019/20.

Decision: Members unanimously agreed to support the ring-fenced amounts as detailed in the report. Clerk to action.

19/06. Draft End of Year Accounts and Bank Balances 2018/19:

Noted prior to internal audit scheduled for 13th May 2019.

19/07. To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19:

Signed by the Chair and Clerk

19/08. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development – 0138/19 Proposed: extensions and alterations including flues, rooflights, cladding and decking to first floor in association with change of use to live work unit to include ground floor café at 3 Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh:

3 members of the Town Council had attended a site visit and it was noted that this application is clearly a creative space where art can be enjoyed with refreshments. It is understood that there is no intention to compete with existing businesses.

The applicant plans to create an informal community arts and events centre with an attached living space and workshop.

Concerns have been expressed by neighbours regarding access, parking, use of the building, lighting and that planning permission has been sought for an area of land not yet owned by the applicant which has become derelict.

The applicant intends to replace any windows which may compromise the privacy of neighbours with frosted glass and will sound proof the space where events may be held in the future and will be subject to licence conditions. There is no public vehicular access because the lane is private. The applicant will be parking one car. There is already D1 planning permission for the property, so permission is sought for a domestic dwelling with a small café serving light refreshments.

The applicant agreed to invite neighbours to visit the property to discuss further if they wish.

Decision: Members support this application on the grounds that the proposals will not compete with existing businesses, that it will be a creative space and that it will be an improvement.

1 member of the public left at 8.03pm

19/09. Nomination of Parish Member to Dartmoor National Park Authority:

Cllr Pam Barrett nominated Cllr Andy Stokes as a Parish Member to DNPA with all Members in agreement.

19/10. Preparation for induction of new Town Councillors:

It was agreed that a managed handover is needed for the new Councillors who are elected on Thursday 2nd May to ensure continuity for the staff and the projects and services provided and/or funded by the Town Council. This will be delivered by a trainer with contributions from the Clerk and Cllrs Stokes and Barrett.

Member of the Public: *Why with an approaching election have the new candidates not attended Council meetings to get a feel for proceedings?*

19/11. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Stokes thanked all the Councillors who have served over the past 4 years for their contributions and support.

19/12. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Janet Jones expressed her disappointment that she was leaving her position as a Town Councillor with no resolutions to the issues of parking which have been brought to the attention of Teignbridge District Council (TDC) on many occasions and the introduction of the 20mph speed limit to the town and 30mph speed limit to Strode Road which have still not been implemented by Devon County Council. Janet would have also liked to have seen the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Ron Fox had attended the Rambunctious event at the Town Hall on 20th April 2019 which was well attended and organised.

A second traders forum took place on 11th April. Allie Clarke, TDC Economic Development Officer was also in attendance and agreed to supply the forum with a health and safety event pack for information and help with advice on training and market research. TDC cannot assist with funding the proposal to have a canvas reusable shopping bag that promotes the town.

Traders were encouraged to carry out their own market research and that this should be divided between their domestic trade and trade from visitors.

Some traders believe that the access to the town via the one-way system discourages business and that signage could be improved. They were advised by representatives of the Town Council that Devon County Council have confirmed that reversal of the one-way system is not possible.

Other initiatives included events to increase footfall, promotional videos and to look at the Great British High Street website which provides a range of ideas that could be adopted. Unfortunately, there is clearly no enthusiasm to set up a new trader's association. Cllr Barrett has created a new Facebook page to facilitate communication between the traders and with the Town Council.

Cllr Phillip Vogel left the meeting at 8.32pm.

The Council agreed to re-issue a revised version of the Town Guide for the summer season but explained that copyright is only held for the text and non-advertising photographs as the guide was printed by a publisher no longer engaged by the Council.

The next Traders Forum meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 28th May.

Cllr Andy Stokes has provisionally arranged the Big Lunch Event for Sunday 23rd June subject to help from volunteers.

19/13. Items requiring urgent attention: None

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.