

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Andy Stokes (Chair), John Bailey, Sue Clarke, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Darren Greep, Gwena Harman, Kate Kayley, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: Cllrs John Nutley and Sarah Parker-Khan (District) and 8 members of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

19/10. Apologies: Cllrs Pam Barrett and Pamela Forbes

19/11. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

19/12. Questions and comments from the public:

A member of the public asked about the complaint's procedure and the Council's compliance with data protection, risk management, insurance, whether the Councillors receive Code of Conduct training and funding support to local businesses. Cllr Stokes agreed to meet to discuss her concerns.

A member of the public referred to her suggestion to "brighten up" Fore Street with new planters on the pavements and re-painting the black bollards following advice that permission must firstly be agreed by Devon Highways.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways following this initial enquiry.

1 member of the public arrived at 7.40 pm

19/13. Minutes of the Council Matters Meeting held on 10th April 2019:

Signed by Cllr Andy Stokes.

19/14. Introduction to Finance and the Town Council's Budget:

Cllr Stokes gave a visual presentation about how the Council Tax is divided between the different authorities and how the budget is spent by the Town Council.

Members of the public were invited to ask questions relating to budget:

How are the grants distributed and do the same groups keep applying?

The Council operates a stringent, open and transparent process and distributes grant funding to a large variety of groups within the parish, but some of these organisations will apply annually.

Has the increased amount needed for the continuation of the Citizens Advice service been accounted for in the new budget?

Yes, additional funding has been ring-fenced for this purpose.

The Christmas Fair and Lamb Pie Day should be supported by the Town Council and publicised more.

Both organisations do receive funding from the Town Council and grant applications are open to all groups There is a need for more volunteers and capacity in the town to ensure that these events continue.

The Council has provided free community training sessions to upskill groups to enable them to seek additional sources of funding, to ensure that their governance and policies are up to date and to examine risk.

The Medical Centre is not the best location for the Citizens Advice service due to lack of privacy.

Cllr Stokes acknowledged that this could be an issue for some. It was pointed out that Citizens Advice are responsible for choosing the most suitable locations for their outreach service and it must be where an appointments system can be facilitated.

How much was spent on the Hello Summer programme from grant funding and how much from the precept? Was there feedback and how was this collated?

Hello Summer has received funding from both an Awards for All Grant and the precept. A bid for Children in Need funding for the next 3 years has recently been successful. Part of the budget allocated for this purpose will now be diverted to other projects. Feedback surveys are undertaken to comply with grant funding criteria.

Cllr Sarah Parker-Khan introduced herself as a new District Councillor for the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh ward.

19/15. Budget Analysis Report 01.04.19 – 30.04.19:

Signed by the Chair

19/16. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.04.19 – 30.04.19:

Signed by the Chair

19/17. Buckfastleigh Town Guide update:

A new Guide was requested by traders who attended the recent trader's forum hosted by the Town Council. Inga, the Administrative Assistant is currently working on the adverts and design.

Cllr Phillips commented on the cost and affordability of the adverts and was advised that by undertaking this publication in-house the fees are considerably less than those of a publishing company, but it was agreed that advertising should be sought to offset some of the cost of printing, delivery and professional advice.

19/18. Nomination of a Parish Member to Dartmoor National Park Authority:

Dartmoor National Park Authority members are not elected democratically, but Parish Councils are permitted to nominate one elected Parish Councillor representative per parish and vote for two. Votes were taken for each of the 7 nominees. Andy Stokes and Philip Vogel received 7 votes each. Clerk to action.

19/19. Items requiring urgent attention:

None

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.