

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Pam Barrett (Chaired the meeting), Sue Clarke, Ron Fox, Gwena Harman, Kate Kayley, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

No apologies received from Cllrs Darren Greep and Pamela Forbes.

In attendance: 1 member of the public and Dr Anita Glover from the Vincent Wildlife Trust

Press: No Press in attendance

19/70. Apologies: Cllrs Andy Stokes, John Bailey and Huw Cox

19/71. Councillors invited to declare any interests: Cllrs Barrett and Fox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8. To approve a contractual agreement between Buckfastleigh Town Council and Victoria Park.

19/72. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24th July 2019 and review of actions from this meeting:

Signed by Cllr Pam Barrett

No outstanding actions from this meeting.

19/73. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 20th August 2019:

Signed by Cllr Pam Barrett

19/74. Questions and comments from the public:

Maureen Tuffnell reported that there has been no progress for a proposed woollen-themed town walk during the Wool Gathering event, but she is still working on this.

19/75. Questions to District and County Councillors:

No reports or apologies received from District or County Councillors.

19/76. To resolve recommendations from the Council Matters meeting held on 11th September 2019:

19/53. Requirement to change the Town Council's online banking provider to facilitate dual authorisation and nomination of four signatories to the new account.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr Pam Barrett and seconded by Cllr Sue Clarke with all Members in agreement. Item resolved. Clerk to action.

19/77. Larger Grant Applications:

Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) – application for £1,689

Anita Glover gave an introduction to the work of the VWT which was established in 1976 and now has 40 sites in Devon, including Rock Farm in Buckfastleigh. The largest population of Greater Horseshoe Bats is in Buckfastleigh which is the most important site in western Europe.

Anita explained that a philanthropic benefactor left a large amount of money to purchase the buildings used as roosts by the bats, but funds are now needed for repairs and renovations. VWT also wish to replace their signs, provide new information boards and continue with the essential maintenance of the quarry face. Volunteers are needed to help with the bat counts, vegetation control and maintenance.

Decision: For: Cllrs P Barrett, S Clarke, R Fox, G Harman, K Kayley, D Patrick. **Against:** S Phillips. **Motion carried.**

Buckfastleigh Christmas Fair – application for £1,500

Members had agreed in principle, when approached earlier in the year, to continue to support the annual Christmas Fair. A not-for-profit group organises the event specifically for residents and visitors. The Fair is not self-funding but as an event organiser the group must ensure compliance with health and safety, insurance etc.

Decision: Members voted unanimously to award £1,500 which will be paid upon receipt of paid invoices in phases as arranged with the Clerk.

19/78. To approve a contractual agreement between Buckfastleigh Town Council and Victoria Park to confirm the Perennial Grant funding:

In accordance with a recommendation by the Internal Auditor, the Chair and Clerk drafted a written contractual agreement between Victoria Park and the Town Council to ensure protection and compliance by both parties to the agreement. This contract will apply to all organisations in receipt of a perennial grant where funding is secured from 2 to 4 years.

Decision: Unanimously approved

19/79. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest:

No new applications.

19/80. To object to the removal of the can recycling bank at Victoria Woodholme car park and any further proposals to reduce this facility:

This matter has been raised by Cllr Cox. The can recycling skip has been removed from the Victoria Woodholme car park by Teignbridge District Council (TDC) without any prior consultation with the Town Council or the community. All the recycling facilities are well used and often overflowing so why was this done and why were we not told? It was suggested that the can recycling bank is returned.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to this effect.

19/81. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Barrett referred to the Town Council hosting the Christmas Community Lunch and the work this entails. Volunteers will be needed in whatever capacity they can help.

19/82. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

The following forthcoming events were highlighted:

- Launch of 'Be Buckfastleigh' on Saturday 12th October in the Living Room (55 Fore Street) – a 12-month pilot scheme funded by the Active Well-being society with 3 objectives; activity and well-being, environment and wildlife projects, food and growing.
- Apple Day and Wool Gathering on Sunday 13th October
- Councillors Buckfastleigh Fire Station visit on Tuesday 15th October
- Be Wild meeting on Wednesday 16th October in the Town Hall

Cllrs Patrick, Phillips, Bailey and Cox had attended the Planning Café hosted by TDC on 23rd September which included workshop sessions on Local Plan policies including the Greater Exeter Plan which in relation to Buckfastleigh includes the area south of Strode Road.

There were useful discussions regarding exception sites which will be considered if the proposed development includes affordable housing. TDC is seeking input to their policies for eg. climate change, design and energy efficiency. Under government planning laws 660 new-build homes per year are required.

19/83. Items requiring Urgent Attention:

Member of the public left at 8.50pm and the meeting went into Part II to discuss a confidential matter.

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.00 pm.