

BUCKFASTLEIGH MATTERS MEETING

Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

20/92. Apologies: Cllrs Kate Kayley

No apologies received from Cllr Pamela Forbes.

20/93. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

20/94. Questions and comments from the public: None

20/95. Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters meeting held on 3rd December 2019 and review of actions:

Noted and signed by Cllr Sue Clarke.

Actions from this meeting:

- 19/85. Buckfast play area - Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to discuss Town Council response.
- 19/87. River monitoring gauge - site visit to be scheduled for February – Cllr Patrick to liaise with Devon County Council (DCC) and contractor.
- 19/88. Replacement native tree at the Church steps turning circle - Town Ranger is liaising with Devon County Council (DCC)
- 19/90. Adult education classes - Cllr Stokes to meet with Learn Devon.

20/96. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest:

No applications received.

20/97. To discuss highways matters and parking problems raised by residents:

Residents have raised various road safety and highways issues with Cllr Stokes. No notice was given to residents of new traffic order changes at Crest Hill other than a notice placed in the local press and some signs. Members agreed that this is not adequate.

Action: Town Council to advertise DCC highways notices on social media.

Members agreed safety must come before convenience and the expectation to be able to park outside your property. It was suggested that the Town Council approaches Devonian again regarding a resident's car park on the site. It was however noted that it is difficult to police and enforce car parks on private land unless a private company is hired for this purpose.

Action: Cllrs Clarke and Patrick to contact Devonian to this effect.

It has been alleged that some residents do not use their allocated spaces provided in Market Close and choose to park on the road which reduces the amount of on street parking available to residents in Market Street and Jordan Street. The reason for this is not known. A resident has

asked that the Town Council contacts Westward Housing to address this and has highlighted various other issues.

Actions: Clerk to contact Westward Housing. Cllr Clarke to respond to the resident's email.

20/98. Chair's Announcements: None

20/99. Councillors' updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Barrett: Parking outside Buckfastleigh Primary School continues to be a problem and is a risk to the children.

The school needs to revise their travel plan and liaise with DCC.

The arrangement with the Coop to ensure deliveries where possible are made outside of drop-off and collection times to the school seems to have lapsed.

Action: Clerk to contact the Head Teacher to this effect and the Coop to remind them of this agreement.

Cllr Barrett: At a recent Be Wild steering group meeting the importance of the management of verges around the parish has been highlighted some of which are identified as sensitive sites due to the type of flora and fauna such as the Deptford Pink. DCC no longer manage the verges except the visual splays and without adequate management stronger, invasive species will take over. DCC is allowing Parish Councils to take over sensitive verges and there is a proposal for the Town Council to do this in Buckfastleigh. There is already a team of volunteers who are willing to undertake this. John Walters, a local naturalist, is currently mapping these verges. There is unlikely to be any significant cost to the Council although the disposal of waste will need to be addressed.

Possible funding may be available from DCC, Dartmoor National Park (DNP) and other grant providers. Be Wild is drawing up a programme of active in nature activities the first of which will be the RSPB annual Big Bird Watch starting on 25th January 2020.

Decision: Recommend to resolve at full Council that the Town Council takes over the management of selected verges around the parish. Proposed by Cllr Andy Stokes, seconded by Cllr Pam Barrett, with all Members in agreement.

It was noted that a new Environmental Budget for 2020/21 can be used to support this initiative.

Action: Cllr Barrett and the Clerk to draw up a proposal to DCC.

Cllr Cox: TDC is currently working on the budget and residents can complete an online consultation to comment on the priorities identified. A green spaces survey is also available on the website.

Cllr Cox: The Road Warden scheme where minor highways work can be carried out by suitably qualified volunteers is being promoted by DCC who will cover the insurance and carry out risk assessments.

Action: Clerk to obtain assurance of this in writing as DCC had not previously agreed to carrying out risk assessments and will they inspect the work once completed?

Cllr Stokes thanked all the staff and volunteers involved in making the 2019 Community Christmas Meal the most successful so far.

Cllr Stokes, Patrick, Cox and Kayley together with Clair and Judith have completed a First Aid at work course.

Members were reminded that the Heart of Buckfastleigh awards and SOUP event will take place on Friday 24th January at 6.00pm in the Town Hall.

20/100. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

20/101. Summary of Key Messages:

- Parking – the Town Council will continue to explore options.
- Verges – Members agreed in principle to take over the management of verges, to be ratified at the January Town Council meeting.
- Congratulations on the Christmas community meal with thanks to the Rill Estate, staff, volunteers and suppliers.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.