

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: David Patrick (Chair), Andy Stokes, Pam Barrett, Sue Clarke, Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Sarah Parker-Khan (Teignbridge District Council) and 1 member of the public

**Press:** No Press in attendance

**20/101. Apologies:** Cllrs Gwena Harman, Kate Kayley, Huw Cox, John Bailey and Darren Greep

Cllr Pamela Forbes did not attend.

**20/102. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**20/103. Questions and comments from the public:**

Cllr Sarah Parker-Khan reported on the Teignbridge District Council (TDC) budget changes. There will be a 2.94% increase in council tax which equates to a £5 annual increase for a Band D property. Parish Councils will now be charged £11 per week to empty each litter bin if not located on TDC or Devon County Council land. Councillor Community Grants will be reduced from £1,500 to £1,000. The Rural Aid Grant will continue but will only apply to parishes with less than a £20,000 precept and £70,000 in reserves. Free Sunday parking will cease and a flat charge of £1 per day introduced. There is concern regarding the impact on businesses and that this may be cost neutral or even incur costs to implement. Sunday is a significant trading day in Newton Abbot. There will be an £80 charge for a set of wheelie bins for new properties with a £40 charge if in receipt of Council Tax benefit. This new charge may also encourage flytipping.

An electric car charging point has been agreed for Mardle Way car park.

Sarah enjoyed the SOUP event in January and would like to host something similar for Ashburton.

There have been two cases of homelessness in Buckfastleigh, both were found temporary accommodation.

A member of the public reported on an abandoned car which has a notice to be removed.

Derelict land at Bridge Street under the leat which is owned by Devonian will be turned into a garden.

Cllr Clarke highlighted overpayments at parking machines.

**20/104. Minutes of the Council Matters Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and review of actions from this meeting:**

Signed by Cllr David Patrick

**Actions:**

- No further progress with the disposal of the solar panels

- The Town Ranger has met with the Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site Safety Officer to discuss signage and lighting for the entrance to the Football grounds.

**20/105. Budget Analysis Report 01.01.20 – 31.01.20:** Noted

**20/106. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.01.20 – 31.01.20:** Noted

**20/107. Annual Review of Standing Orders and Direct Debits:** Noted

**20/108. Review of Buckfastleigh Town Council Assets Register 2020:** Discussed and noted.

The issue of the faulty Town Clock was raised and the repair cost.

**20/109. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:**

Some Members of the Town Council met at The Living Room on 10<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the option of taking ownership of the tennis courts and surrounding land from TDC. The Clerk has sent an email to TDC assets to establish the current position regarding the transfer of assets in Buckfastleigh and to whether it is all or nothing.

Cllr Parker-Khan offered to find out further information.

There is the potential for the Glebelands site to be a nature reserve. Councillors to carry out site visits once an up to date map has been received.

Learn Devon to showcase learning opportunities in the town with English and Maths GCSE courses to start in September and IT training in the spring in the Town Hall.

Teign CVS energy-saving event to be held in The Living Room on 19<sup>th</sup> February from 2.00 to 8.00pm.

Stagecoach are consulting on changes to the X38 service which includes terminating the service at Ivybridge and continue to Plymouth with Stagecoach Gold. No direct service will be available.

**Action:** Cllr Patrick to draft a response and circulate for comment.

The Dartmoor National Park Management Plan will be discussed at the Town Council meeting on 4th March.

A Town Council hosted Tourism forum will be arranged for a date in March which will be run café style. Cllr Barrett and the Clerk to facilitate. This will be followed by a sports and recreation or well-being and leisure forum overseen by Cllr Clarke and a Flood management/environmental forum in May or June which will include information from the Be Wild and Upstream management projects. Cllr Patrick to do.

**Actions:** Dates, publicity and contents to be arranged in liaison with the Clerk.

**20/110. Items requiring Urgent Attention:** None

**20/111. Summary of Key Messages:**

- TDC budget
- Stagecoach consultation on X38
- Feasibility of adopting green spaces
- Teign CVS Energy saving event
- Learn Devon to start GCSE and IT courses in the Town Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.