

BUCKFASTLEIGH MATTERS MEETING

Minutes of the Town Council - Buckfastleigh Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Sue Clarke (Chair), Andy Stokes, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Pamela Forbes, Darren Greep, David Patrick, John Bailey and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: 4 members of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

20/112. Apologies: Cllrs Kate Kayley and Pam Barrett

No apologies received from Cllrs Sylvee Phillips and Gwena Harman

20/113. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

20/114. Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters meeting held on 5th February 2020 and review of actions:

Noted and signed by Cllr Sue Clarke

Actions:

- Town Ranger site visit – outstanding work reported to Devon Highways and completed
- Valiant Soldier – site visit pending
- Work experience details forwarded to the Sports Club as agreed
- Teignbridge District Council (TDC) review of assets – Cllrs have met but are awaiting further information from TDC

20/115. Questions and comments from the public:

A representative of Buckfast Residents' Society highlighted that the loading bay outside Hamlyn House is on a blind corner when coming up the hill. Vision is further restricted by parked lorries and road users parking on the double yellow lines.

Cllr Stokes asked for photos as evidence to make a case.

Action: Cllrs Greep and Forbes to liaise with the Clerk. It was agreed that the support of the owners is needed to agree the best option.

The applicant for planning application no. 20/00373/FUL Bigadon Lodge, Buckfastleigh offered members a site visit.

Action: Planning review panel to decide if this application needs to be discussed at full Council.

20/116. Questions to District and County Councillors:

Cllr Cox gave an update from TDC: Part 1 of the Local Plan review is out for consultation from 23rd March until 18th May 2020. Planning cafes will be held.

The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan is almost ready for consultation.

The Road Warden agreement with Devon County Council has been sent.

The Green Spaces portfolio holder, Andrew MacGregor is carrying out a site visit around the parish to look at TDC owned assets and will meet with officers to discuss options and keep members informed.

Following an enquiry by a resident members were informed that Road Sweeper truck discharges filtered water into the Woodholme car park drain and not the debris.

20/117. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest: None

20/118. To discuss and draft a response to the Dartmoor National Park Management (DNP) Plan 2020-2025:

It was agreed that the key points of this document need to be identified. It was noted that the views of young people are encouraged.

Actions: Cllrs Cox and Bailey to discuss and draft a response for comment by all Members. Copy to be available at the Town Hall and The Living Room for the public to view and comment.

20/119. Proposal to become a member of Teign Energy Communities as part of the Town Council's commitment to supporting and facilitating climate change and ecological initiatives:

Teign Energy CIC install renewable energy initiatives. Membership benefits includes accessibility to monitoring equipment, training, free workshops and expertise and is by the purchase of shares at £1.00 each up to a maximum share of £49.00.

Action: Cllr Stokes to invite Teign Energy to give a presentation to the Town Council and then decide regarding membership.

20/120. Ongoing problem of blocked drains and gullies (deferred from Town Council meeting held on 26th February 2020):

Cllr Cox is meeting the Devon County Council (DCC) officer responsible for drains and gullies management so he asked for this item to be deferred.

Recent flash flooding at Market Street was exacerbated by drains blocked by gravel, vegetation and rocks. There have also been some landslips, removal of hedges and increased run-off from fields.

Fields are too wet to plant and have become compacted due to poor drainage. It was agreed that this observation could be included in the Town Council response to land management in the DNPA plan.

A member of the public highlighted run-off on Grange Road and Higher Mill Lane and blocked drains despite being recently jetted by Devon Highways. Two properties in this area are now at risk of flooding.

Cllr Patrick attended a Neighbourhood Watch Hub meeting where members are trying to coordinate local schemes with emergency volunteers. It was suggested that Buckfast Residents Society contact him.

It was suggested that a sandbag store could be sited at Buckfast.

Cllr Stokes thanked the Volunteer Emergency Response Team.

20/121. Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report, April to December 2019:

Cllr Stokes highlighted key points from the report. A new advisor is now in place to continue the outreach service at the Medical Centre. Eligibility and access to benefits are the highest concern. Members agreed this is a good service for the town and asked if extended hours are needed or feasible.

20/122. Chair's Announcements: None

20/123. Councillors' updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Forbes raised concerns about changes to the bus timetable and how this effects residents.

Action: The Town Council is objecting to the proposed changes to the X38 timetable on grounds of impact on employment, education and the elderly.

Discussion of possibility of having community bus. It was agreed that the Council would need to look at cost feasibility and destinations. The bus would not be able to support free travel.

Action: Investigate and publicise what public transport is currently available, for who, when and how much it costs, e.g. Newton Abbot Ring & Ride.

20/124. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

20/125. Summary of Key Messages:

- DNPA Management Plan
- Teign Energy Communities
- Blocked drains and gullies
- Bus timetable changes

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.