

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held in the Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillors: Pam Barrett (Chair), Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Janet Jones, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey, Simon Rines, Dan Simpson, Neil Smith, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: Press in attendance

In attendance: Cllr John Nutley (District & Ashburton TC), Cllr Sarah Khan (Ashburton TC), Ella Brien (DNPA) Andrew Rothery of 'Food Futures' and 4 members of the public.

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/22. Apologies:

Councillors: Stuart Barker (District & County) and Charlie Dennis (District).

16/23. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None .

16/24. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 20th May 2015:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

16/25. Declaration of Acceptance by all elected Town Councillors:

All Members signed the Declarations in the presence of the Town Clerk.

16/26. Election of Town Mayor and Chair of the Town Council for 2016/17:

The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor and Chair. Cllr Pam Barrett was nominated by Cllr Ron Fox which was seconded by Cllr Andy Stokes with all Members in agreement. With no further nominations Cllr Barrett was duly elected.

16/27. Election of Deputy Mayor and Deputy Chair of the Town Council for 2016/17:

The Chair invited nominations for the above position and Cllr Janet Jones was nominated by Cllr Andy Stokes which was seconded by Cllr Fanny Jackson with all in favour. With no further nominations for this position Cllr Jones was duly elected.

16/28. Appointment of the Chair of Finance for 2016/17:

The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of Finance and Cllr Andy Stokes nominated Cllr Smith which was seconded by Cllr Linus McCloskey with all Members in favour. With no further nominations, Cllr Smith was duly appointed.

16/29. Appointment of the Chair of Planning, Environment and Transport Committee for 2016/17:

Cllr Janet Jones was nominated by Cllr Pam Barrett which was seconded by Cllr Andy Stokes with all in agreement. With no further nominations, Cllr Jones was appointed.

16/30. Appointment of the Chairman of Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee 2016/17:

Cllr Simon Rines was nominated by Cllr Pam Barrett which was seconded by Cllr Neil Smith with all in favour. With no further nominations for this position Cllr Rines was appointed.

16/31. Committee Membership – Appointment of Members to the Finance, Planning, Environment and Transport (PEAT), Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development (TRED) and Personnel Committees:

Finance Committee – Councillors Pam Barrett, Fanny Jackson, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey and Andy Stokes were appointed.

Planning, Environment and Transport Committee – Councillors Pam Barrett, Ron Fox, Mark Maish and Linus McCloskey.

Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee – Councillors Pam Barrett, Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Dan Simpson and Neil Smith.

Personnel Committee – All Chairs and Line Managers

16/32. Representation to Outside Organisations:

Buckfast Village Hall – Cllr Janet Jones

Buckfastleigh Community Development Trust (Bungalow Youth Project) – Cllrs Fanny Jackson and Dan Simpson

Wildspace Buckfastleigh – Cllrs Fanny Jackson and Janet Jones

Friends of Buckfastleigh Library – Cllrs Janet Jones and Andy Stokes

Whitecleave Quarry Liaison Group – Cllrs Mark Maish and Simon Rines

16/33. Public Question Time:

A member of the public ask why the Mayor had not represented the Town at events and commented that some residents would like to see the Mayor attending more events wearing the official regalia.

Cllr Pam Barrett asked which events it was felt had been unattended as the Council Chair, Deputy Chair and Town Councillors had attended a number of events throughout the year? The Council had worked very hard last year raising visibility of the Town Council and Town Councillors and believed that this approach had been very successful in ensuring that more people know who the town's Chair and Councillors are and what they do, than ever before. The approach had also been very successful in raising the towns profile with lots of positive local and national media coverage.

It had been a deliberate decision that the Chair focuses a lot of time on the administration of The Council rather than attending many social and networking events as in previous years. It had also been a conscious decision to ensure that the Chair and Councillors were seen to be approachable as members of the community and it was felt that the official regalia could be seen as a barrier on occasions. The Council Chair, Deputy Chair and other Councillors would continue to represent the town at events and wear official regalia where it was thought appropriate.

Member of the Public: *The Councillor surgery that was held in Fore Street was successful*

and Cllrs Jones and Jackson were very approachable.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed.....

Date.....