

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 7.30 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)

16/34. Apologies:

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

16/35. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None .

16/36. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13th April 2016:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

16/37. Questions raised by the Public:

A member of the public raised a number of topics which related to the Town Hall Trust and therefore, could not be addressed at this meeting.

It was noted however, that the Plymouth Road bus shelter rebuild will commence on 23rd May 2016 and is scheduled to be completed by 5th June.

The Council is looking at a working party for parking issues around the town, but volunteers are needed to progress this further and have not been forthcoming.

Cllr Simon Rines: Parking will be looked at under the Neighbourhood Plan and another public consultation will take place in the near future.

Cllr Pam Barrett: A by-election has been called to fill the two town council vacancies and we are waiting for information from Teignbridge District Council about the timetable and date for election. We expect that the by-election will cost the town approximately £3,000 which will need to be factored into the Town Council's budget.

Cllr Pam Barrett welcomed Cllrs Nutley and Khan as the newly appointed Mayor and Chair and Deputy for Ashburton Town Council to the meeting.

16/38. Police Report:

In the absence of a representative from the Police, Cllr Barrett summarised the April report.

33 incidents had been recorded with 4 relating to the A38 and 8 crimes.

Fly tipping is becoming a particular problem and incidents should be reported to the police and Teignbridge District Council on 0800 328 6402.

Speed checks have been carried out at Buckfast and a police surgery on Thursday 19 May in St. Luke's Church to coincide with the coffee morning.

16/39. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:

Cllr John Nutley: Teignbridge District Council (TDC) are looking at parking in the district and air pollution, although not aware if monitoring is taking place in Buckfastleigh.

The Chair summarised the report provided by Cllr Stuart Barker which confirmed the bus shelter re-build and explained the process of procurement by TDC.

Devon County Council have reviewed their highway maintenance policy which is now more focused on the risks associated with defaults.

16/40. Update by Ella Briens, Dartmoor National Park Ranger:

Ella explained her duties and that she covers an extensive area. She asked for volunteers to help with path work for eg. surveying, monitoring and strimming as there is only a small budget for this. Repairs to flood damaged areas are being undertaken and DNPA is looking at the area around Holy Trinity and the Church steps which require attention, but it would be helpful if local residents could provide feedback about what should be prioritised for work.

16/41. Presentation by Andrew Rothery of 'Food Futures':

Andrew Rothery: 'Food Futures' is a small enterprise based at the Devonia site that contributes to the Buckfastleigh Community Food initiative by sourcing locally produced organic vegetables. The organisation would now like to work with the Town Council in a community engagement process.

There is a perception that organic vegetables are viewed as expensive and it is hoped that local growers can reduce the cost by increasing the demand. Feedback from the public would also be very welcome.

16/42. Update by representatives of the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh League of Friends:

Cllr Sarah Khan, Chair of the League of Friends: Four community hospitals, including the one at Ashburton, are under a new threat of closure. The NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) plan to provide alternative provision to patients in their own homes or privately run nursing homes, but she was concerned that this does not meet the needs of a rural area where services are already over-stretched.

There is concern all the community services for Ashburton and Buckfastleigh will be based at Totnes, that there are no local authority nursing homes and that the proposals may cause bed blocking or patients being sent home without a care package.

The public are encouraged to attend meetings and support the hospital.

Cllr Janet Jones: This needs to be publicised.

Cllr Simon Rines: Important to involve other town and parish councils in this matter.

Cllr Sarah Khan: The group is working with the other three community hospitals to create a cohesive strategy, but they need to wait for the actual proposals. The consultation period runs from 13th May until 5th August 2016.

Member of the public arrived at 8.55pm.

Decision: Cllr Andy Stokes proposed that the Town Council fully supports the League of Friends to oppose the planned closure and agreed that a public meeting should be arranged once the full scope of the proposals have been received. All Members in agreement.

16/43. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 27th April 2016:

Noted.

To resolve the following recommendations from Minutes Nos:

16/07. Draft End of Year Accounts 2015/16

16/08. End of Year Bank Balances 2015/16

16/09. Draft Town Hall Trust End of Year Accounts 2015/16 – To resolve the Town Hall Grant Allocation 2015/16

All resolved and recommended for Internal Audit.

16/44. To receive the minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee held on 4th May 2016:

Noted

16/45. Draft documents for discussion: -

- i) Revised Grants policy and application – the aim is to streamline and speed up the process for grant applications up to £250 which will be awarded on three occasions during the year.
Members agreed that delegated powers are given to the Finance Committee so that the process can be shortened and that the total fund is divided into approximately three equal amounts.

Decision: Revised documents adopted subject to minor amendments by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to publicise the new grants policy and amend the Financial Regulations accordingly.

- ii) New Community Development Fund policy and application – Members agreed that this policy needs to be a robust and rigorous process to deal with applications applying for a portion of the £10,000 notional fund.

Decision: Community Development Fund policy resolved in principle with some amendments. Applications to be considered at Finance Committee with recommendations to full Council as and when received.

Action: Clerk to publicise the new fund and update the Financial Regulations to this effect.

16/46. Chairman's Announcements: None

16/47. Clerk's Announcements: None

16/48. Correspondence:

- i) Thank you letter from St. Luke's PCC 28.04.16 for the Holy Trinity Church grass cutting grant. Noted

16/49. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Janet Jones: The Councillors surgery with Fanny Jackson held in Fore Street was very successful and questions from local residents were mainly to do with how the Council works.

Cllrs Ron Fox and Simon Rines will host the next surgery.

Cllr Janet Jones: A new Royal British Legion branch has been established and the group are now meeting on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.00pm in the Football Club.

Cllr Fanny Jackson: A 1940's event in the Town Hall is being planned in partnership with South Devon Railway for 1st July.

Cllrs Pam Barrett: The Green Party MEP, Molly Scott Kato, inspected flood defence work in Buckfastleigh with an Environment Agency Officer. They are considering Buckfastleigh as a test site for managing upstream events. Experimental monitoring equipment on the River Mardle is being used to measure the flow of the river.

Cllr Simon Rines: The Council has serious concerns regarding the recent DCC Development Committee Management meeting and how the process was managed. The introduction of a new storage height to 5.5m at Whitecleave Quarry has been viewed as misleading and the Council are looking at making a formal complaint.

16/50. Urgent Items:

The Chair conveyed the Council's best wishes for a swift recovery to Graham Squires who until recently had served as a Town Councillor.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....

Date.....