

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 7:30pm

Present: Pam Barrett (Chair), Janet Jones, Mark Maish, Simon Rines, Neil Smith, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: No press in attendance.

In attendance: Cllr John Nutley (District), 3 members of the public, 2 representatives of The Friendship Group and 1 representative of St. Luke's Church re Agenda Item No. 3) Grants Presentation

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/70. Apologies: Councillors Dan Simpson, Ron Fox, Linus McCloskey, Fanny Jackson, Pamela Forbes and Greg Porter and Stuart Barker (District & County).

17/71. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

17/72. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st June 2017:

Signed and approved by Cllr. Pam Barrett

17/73. Questions raised by the Public:

Member of the Public: *Buckfastleigh has been entered for the Small Neighbourhood Award under the RHS Britain in Bloom campaign with 13 entries for 2017, 3 more than 2016. Judging will take place on 20 July under various categories including community involvement and the awards presentation will be held in October.*

17/74. Grants Presentation to local groups and organisations:

St. Luke's Church Family Worker and The Friendship Group each received £250.00 which was presented by Cllr Pam Barrett.

17/75. Police report:

The report for June had been circulated to Members prior to this meeting which was noted.

The Chair highlighted the theft of money from an elderly resident at Oaklands Park who did not lock their front door while away from the property. The Police gave a reminder to encourage vulnerable residents to lock doors and windows and that stickers and crime prevention booklets are available at the Town Hall and at the monthly police surgery held in St. Luke's Church.

The police have also received complaints of speeding, particularly along Market Street and Bridge Street, and have issued a reminder to motorists regarding the hazards of speeding. Speeds checks will be carried out around the parish over the coming weeks.

17/76. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors and to discuss the effectiveness of updates and how this could be improved:

Report from Cllr John Nutley:-

Information from the Teignbridge District Council (TDC) Parking Services Support Manager was provided which gave a summary of income and expenditures costs for the TDC owned car parks in the town for 2016/17.

It was agreed that this report did not provide a comprehensive list of expenditure and other costs such as enforcement and removing travellers would need to be considered should the Town Council seek to take over the car parks as part of an asset transfer.

The Haldon Ridge traveller site run by TDC has proved to be a success, but there is still a need for dedicated sites around the district.

Cllr Nutley attended a meeting of the South Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership which looked at a variety of topics including policing and crime prevention. Further feedback of this will be provided at a later date.

TDC are looking at dementia and fuel poverty initiatives and how to provide support. There are currently 2,470 people living with dementia in the District which is set to rise to around 4270 by 2036. National data indicates that there are 6,372 households in fuel poverty in Teignbridge. Both of these topics will link to 'The Teignbridge Ten' super projects.

Cllr Janet Jones who has represented the Council at the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital meetings, confirmed that a well-being package is being looked at and this needs to link into the data provided by TDC.

Cllr John Nutley raised his concerns regarding the comments made by the Town Council with respect to the lack of representation by Ward Members at meetings although no specific comment was aimed at him personally.

It was noted that Cllr Stuart Barker had only attended a Town Council meeting on one occasion in the last 15 months and Cllr Charlie Dennis had not attended any since February 2016. This lack of communication denies Councillors from receiving up to date notifications of policy and issues that may affect the community and as a result often do not have enough time to comment or provide feedback into the decision-making process. Examples of this relates to the Greater Exeter Plan and why Buckfastleigh is a part of this and what are 'The Teignbridge Ten' super projects which have been agreed?

The Town Council proactively engages with the community, but this seems to be opposite to how the larger authorities function. If Cllr Nutley does not attend the Town Council meetings there would be no mechanism in place for a regular two-way channel of communication.

The Chair read out an email received earlier that day from Cllr Charlie Dennis, at his request, which states that he has no obligation to attend Town or Parish Council meetings and that no apologies are required.

District and County Councillors reports have been a standing item for many years on most Town and Parish Council agendas nationally and although not mandatory it is common practice and gives Members the opportunity to influence decisions. The Council are aware that Cllrs Barker, Dennis and Nutley regularly attend the Ashburton meetings and not just in their capacity as Town Councillors.

Cllr Simon Rines: There is no representation from the political party that controls the County and District Councils

Action: It was agreed that the Council should work on a draft proposal to encourage more proactive and transparent engagement and a strategy for District and County Councillors to become more involved.

17/77. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 28th June 2017: Noted.

17/78. To receive the minutes of the non-quorate Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 3rd July 2017: Noted

17/79. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 5th July 2017: Noted.

Cllr Janet Jones confirmed that Members had a very productive meeting with the TDC Enabling Officer and a second meeting will be arranged in due course.

17/80. Town Council Projects update:

- Community solar panels – two quotes have been obtained which now need to be assessed.
- Helipad – quotes have been received, but further communication with TDC is still required before this project can proceed further.
- Free activities for young people – the programme of activities called ‘Hello Summer 2017’ will start on Wednesday 26 July with at least one activity every weekday morning throughout the school summer holidays.
- The CAB outreach service – an update was provided at the June meeting by Cllr Linus McCloskey and it was noted that other CABs are looking to follow the Buckfastleigh model as a pilot project for their own communities.
- Town Ranger – the new Ranger has been well received and has commenced his duties around the parish.

17/81. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:

Members agreed that the Council needs to work up a proposal for further engagement with the community and continue to invite comments from residents.

17/82. Review of Teignbridge District Council Services Consultation:

This new consultation is not user-friendly or easily accessible on the website. It is only available online for an individual to complete and therefore not accessible to all residents who live within the district. It would be useful to have a breakdown of data specifically for the TQ11 postcode area and identify what are the priorities for TDC?

17/83. Development of a Youth Programme for Buckfastleigh:

There is no longer a funded youth service in the town. Following a successful funding bid the Town Council will be looking to employ a youth worker to design and deliver a programme of youth activity for 12 months. This service would complement the two existing youth clubs.

There is also no outreach work in the parish for young people to help with problems such as drugs and alcohol abuse and relationship problems. There were no activities in the school holidays until the Town Council intervened.

The theme from the first community participation budget event, was to develop a youth provision pilot project.

Action: Pam and Judith to work on a draft proposal.

17/84. Chair's Announcements:

Dartmoor National Park Authority are currently undertaking a consultation to introduce parking fees for 5 of their car parks on the Moor. Individuals can response to the survey, but it was agreed that the Council should respond as a statutory consultee. Members strongly object to the proposal and would advocate an exemption for residents who live within the National Park boundary.

Action: To discuss further at the August Planning Committee.

Feedback from the participatory budget event identified two main themes:-

1. There is a gap in social care provision for both the young and elderly for eg. support for pre-school children, parents and families and at the other end of the age spectrum, loneliness, isolation and lack of accessible transport.
2. Initiatives around food growing, planting, composting, allotments, orchards, food festivals and an arts strategy.

Other topics included the improvement of entrances to the town, support to voluntary groups, training and grant funding workshops. It was suggested in principal to use the Community Development Fund to help fund training for volunteers in areas such as first aid and food hygiene, but also to encourage their own fund-raising activities. Members agreed that there is a lot of responsibility dependent upon a small number of volunteers and groups which is not sustainable.

17/85. Clerk's Announcements:

The Clerk gave an update to the meeting about the new Ranger and his role in the community.

17/86. Correspondence: None

17/87. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Mark Maish: £10,000 has been raised for Buckfastleigh Primary School to develop and refurbish the rear playground.

Cllr Maish has attended a meeting with the Asulam on Dartmoor group to discuss alleged use of herbicides and pesticides on Dartmoor and has been giving advice to the Orchard Millennium Green Trustees regarding tree maintenance.

Cllr Andy Stokes: 200 people attended the Big Lunch event in June which was a great success and thanks to all the volunteers.

17/68. Urgent Items: None.

The meeting closed at 9.38pm

Signed Date.....