

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall on Wednesday 12th October 2016 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Pam Barrett (Chair), Janet Jones, Simon Rines, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Mark Maish, Greg Porter, Dan Simpson, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: No press in attendance

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/106. Apologies:

Councillors: Linus McCloskey, Neil Smith, John Nutley (District) and Stuart Barker (County and District)

PCSO James Yates (Ashburton Police Station)

16/107. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None .

16/108. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14th September 2016:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

16/109. Questions raised by the Public:

No public present.

16/110. Police Report:

In the absence of police representation, Cllr Pam Barrett summarised the police report for September.

68 incidents with 20 relating to the A38 and 21 crimes reported.

There has been an increase in complaints by local residents regarding speeding drivers along Plymouth Road.

The theme for October is vehicle road worthiness and preparing vehicles for winter. Speed checks are being carried out around the town and penalties given for vehicles with defects or speeding.

Police surgeries are continuing to be held at St. Luke's Church.

16/111. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:

Cllr Pam Barrett read out a report from Cllr Stuart Barker to the meeting.

NHS proposals for hospital closures has led to the current consultation process. Healthwatch who represent the patient voice are also involved in the engagement events and the proposals preparation. Healthwatch are overseeing the consultation and will collate the results for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Devon County Council (DCC) are supporting the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign relating to changed eligibility age for women's pensions and will be making representations to the relevant Secretary of State and MPs.

DCC have formed a partnership to co-ordinate the Government funded programme to resettle vulnerable Syrians. This will bring together City and District Councils, DCC, the NHS, police and partners in the voluntary and community sector.

Work to clear the Plymouth Road leat and overgrown private hedges along the footpath from Gypsy Lane to Plymouth Road will be carried out using the community payback scheme.

Cllr Fanny Jackson: Some householders who live along the leat do help to clear it, but there is no means of disposing of the vegetation.

16/112. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 28th September 2016:

Noted.

To resolve the following recommendation from Minute Nos:

16/42. Revised Draft Financial Regulations for resolution

Decision: Revised Financial Regulations adopted with all Members in favour.

16/113. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 5th October 2016:

Noted.

16/114. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllrs Janet Jones and Fanny Jackson attended a Teignbridge Association of Local Councils meeting where the devolution process was discussed.

Cllrs Janet Jones and Andy Stokes represented the Council at the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital League of Friends meeting where the group are looking at taking legal action against the CCG, using their own funds, but are seeking legal advice first. Funds have been frozen until a decision is reached and the facts must be ascertained before a challenge to the proposed closure of the hospital can be made.

Cllr Simon Rines together with other Town Councillors attended a Devon United meeting to discuss 'empowering local communities'.

Cllr Pam Barrett declared a non-pecuniary interest in donating £400 of her £500 Mayor's Good Causes Fund to Victoria Park.

The next item was raised as urgent as the consultation had only just been received, but requires a response before the next meeting.

Cllr Andy Stokes: There is a Council Tax referendum principles consultation where a response is required by 28th October 2016. Since the introduction of Council Tax referendums, no referendum principles have extended to Town and Parish Councils, but this is now being reviewed.

Initially this will affect Councils with a precept of £500,000, but there will be a proposal that will affect all by capping at 2% or a £5.00 whichever is the higher. The Council must object

to this and consider the cost of a referendum every time an increase of more than 2% may be required.

Action: Cllr Andy Stokes and the Clerk to respond.

The meeting closed at 7.03pm.

Signed.....

Date.....