

# **BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30 pm.**

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

**Press:** No Press in attendance

In attendance: Andrew Shadrake and Fuad Al-Tavil, Devon Association of Renewable Energy (DARE), JoBee Timms of South Devon Wool Works (SDWW), Georgina Allen, South Devon Watch (SDW) and 5 members of the public.

## **Part I (Open to the Public)**

### **16/06. Apologies:**

**Councillors:** Dan Simpson, Neil Smith, Stuart Barker (District & County) and J. Nutley (District).

**16/07. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None .

**16/08. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016:**

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

**16/09. Questions raised by the Public:** No questions.

### **16/10. Police Report:**

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

48 incidents had been recorded with 10 relating to the A38 and 11 crimes.

A burglary took place at South Devon Railway on 30 March and the Police are pursuing enquiries.

A Police surgery will be held on Thursday 21 April in St. Luke's Church to coincide with the coffee morning.

### **16/11. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:**

The Chair summarised a report provided by Cllr Stuart Barker with particular reference to the poor state of the cobbles at the top end of Fore Street and the cost involved to reinstate these. Devon County Council (DCC) are looking at the use of decorative tarmac as an alternative, but it was agreed that the Town Council would like further information before supporting the use of this material as a substitute to the cobbles.

**Action:** Clerk to respond to Cllr Barker accordingly.

**16/12. Presentation by Andrew Shadrake and Fuad Al-Tavil OF Devon Association for Renewable Energy (DARE) on the Buckfastleigh Renewable Energy Project.**

An introduction was given by Andrew Shadrake as to how renewable energy initiatives could benefit Buckfastleigh and its community buildings. Possible options to be considered might be a biomass hot water boiler for the Town Hall and a hydro power turbine on the River Dart which would generate electricity. A community event was held in the Town Hall in March to look at the options and a small grant was received by the Town Council to carry out an initial feasibility study. Further funding is available for a more detailed study.

DARE can be engaged to support community projects and act as an umbrella organisation. A community owned organisation can be set up, or alternatively, work with another already established group such as Teign Energy Communities where Buckfastleigh could become a stakeholder and sell electricity or heat into the feeding tariff.

A £20,000 fund is available to progress the project and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Council and Teign Energy Communities has been circulated to Councillors for consideration.

**Decision:** Cllr Pam Barrett proposed that the Council applies for funding which was seconded by Cllr Ron Fox with all Members in agreement.

**16/13. Discussion about the SW Devolution process and the following motion submitted by Cllr Andy Stokes:**

Cllr Andy Stokes introduced the process and expressed concern regarding the loss of democratic process and funding.

Georgina Allen: There has been little information regarding Devolution. Devolution started under the Localism Act 2011 and was perceived as a good idea, passing power down to local councils and promoting local democracy, but it is now viewed as privatisation of public services.

The Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HoTSW) is a non-elected and self-appointed group of business people who have prepared and submitted a bid or “prospectus” to the Government setting out how their proposals for how the SW could be developed. This includes proposals for the creation of 179,000 new houses and links much of the development on the building of the new nuclear reactor at Hinkley in North Somerset. It appears that many significant planning decisions have been moved from local councils to HoTSW.

The HoTSW are not accountable to any organisation and appear not to have a head office or clear ways of contacting them. There is no requirement for disclosure or transparency, no timescale or timetable set.

**Decision:** A motion setting out the Council's concerns about the HoTSW Prospectus for Devolution was proposed by Cllr Andy Stokes. Amendments were made and it was agreed to send the revised motion to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government. The motion was proposed by Cllr Andy Stokes and seconded by Cllr Pam Barrett with all Members in agreement.

**Action:** Amended letter to be sent on behalf of the Town Council by the Clerk

**16/14. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016:**

Noted.

To resolve the following recommendations from Minutes Nos:

16/102. Precept 2016/17

16/105. Items requiring Urgent Attention v) Community Development Fund.

Both items proposed for resolution by Cllr Pam Barrett and seconded by Cllr Simon Rines, with all in favour.

**16/15. To receive the draft minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016:**

Noted with the name change to the 'Planning, Environment and Transport Committee' (PEAT)

**16/16. To receive the draft minutes of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

Noted.

**16/17. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chair announced that the Council had received two resignations from Cllrs Graham Squires and Billy Hartstein. Both were thanked for their contributions to the Council and in particular, Graham Squires for his long service to the community.

**Action:** Clerk to advertise the vacancies accordingly.

**16/18. Clerk's Announcements:** None

**16/19. Correspondence:**

- i) Response from Highways England – 31.03.16 to the letter sent by the Town Council – 22.03.16 regarding drainage issues on the A38 from Dean Prior to Rattery Hill.

**Decision:** The comments were noted and referred to the May meeting of PEAT for further discussion.

**16/20. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:**

Cllr Simon Rines: The proposed A38 flyover project for improvements to the entrance to the South Devon Railway attraction are under discussion.

Cllrs Andy Stokes and Fanny Jackson: 50 people attended the second Community Engagement Event including representation from local voluntary organisations. A useful discussion took place with good feedback.

Cllr Andy Stokes: Representatives from all the parishes situated along the A38 corridor attended a South Devon Cycling Strategy Group meeting. The group is looking at linking in with the Dartmoor Granite and Gears cycle trails.

Cllr Fanny Jackson: National Bike Week will take place from 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and it is hoped that Buckfastleigh Primary School and Naturally Active will be involved. A bike

maintenance workshop is also planned. This could be a regular event with fundraising activities.

Cllrs Pam Barrett and Janet Jones: A Greater Dartmoor Leaf meeting was held in the Town Hall. Key projects need to be identified. These however, must be capital projects that will create jobs within the community.

Cllr Janet Jones: A recent meeting of Southpark Community Centre confirmed that despite the loss of the Buckfast Primary School lunches, the hall is financially stable and has been renamed – ‘Buckfast Village Hall’.

Cllr Janet Jones: Natural Devon and Devon Highways both gave presentations at the Teignbridge Association for Local Councils meeting which was informative.

Cllr Pam Barrett: Devon Highways can now only clear drains on a 2 to 3-year cycle, but drains that are prone to flooding have been identified for additional clearance.

Cllrs Fanny Jackson and Janet Jones attended a Devon Communities Together Neighbourhood Planning presentation which was helpful.

Cllr Janet Jones: The Friends of Buckfastleigh Library have hosted numerous fund-raising activities. The tenancy with the Town Hall Trust is under review following the taken over by Libraries Unlimited South West, but as yet a draft Tenancy at Will has not been received for consideration.

Cllrs Janet Jones, Ron Fox and Mark Maish: The first site visit with Toby Russell of Devon Air Ambulance concluded that modern LED lighting is needed for the football ground where the proposed new helipad would be sited. This will require community fund raising to achieve.

Cllr Barrett: Devon Highways will be surveying the Fore Street paving stones with a view to improvements.

The swimming pool will re-open on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May through to the first Saturday in September. The Victoria Park redevelopment proposals will now require planning permission from Dartmoor National Park Authority.

**16/21. Urgent Items:** None

The meeting closed at 9.39pm.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....