

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 14th September 2016 at 7.30 pm.

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

Press: Mid Devon Advertiser in attendance

In attendance: Cllr Elaine Baker (Ashburton Town Council and Friends of Ashburton & Buckfastleigh Hospital), representative of Buckfastleigh Pubwatch, PC Will Young, PCSO James Yates and 3 members of the public including grant recipient.

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/85. Apologies:

Councillors: Fanny Jackson, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter and John Nutley (District) Ian Ramsay (Chair of Buckfastleigh Pubwatch)

16/86. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None .

16/87. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 20th July 2016:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

16/88. Questions raised by the Public:

Member of Public: *Complaint regarding overgrown vegetation along Dart Bridge Road.*

Cllr Janet Jones: Outstanding work has been reported to the Highways Officer and jobs are ongoing.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The Station Road car park wall is being compromised by overgrown vegetation.

Action: Clerk to report to Teignbridge District Council (TDC) re Station Road car park.

Cllr Pam Barrett referred to online reporting for highways matters and the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) community path day organised for 17th September 2016.

Discussion regarding the proposed closure of Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital was deferred until later in the meeting.

16/89. Grants Presentation to South Devon Rail and Road Services for the Vintage Bus:

Cllr Pam Barrett was pleased to present a cheque for £300 to support the running of the vintage bus during the summer season.

16/90. Discussion with representatives from Buckfastleigh Pubwatch:

PC Will Young: There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour over the summer, but some incidents are only being reported by social media and not directly to the police.

The Police Report for August was provided by PSCO James Yates:-

65 incidents for Buckfastleigh with 15 related to the A38 and 16 recorded crimes.

There has been an increase in drinking in public in the open spaces, but the police have been proactive in this matter including seizing alcohol from people in the town.

Cllr Simon Rines: What are the main problems and the age group involved with anti-social behaviour?

PC Will Young: 18 to 30 years, mainly a group of friends and acquaintances which has led to a criminal behavioural process, some at stage 1 and one at stage 2 which will lead to TDC issuing a behavioural contract. This gives the opportunity to address behaviour before taking it further.

Drinking in the street is a civil offence and all officers in Devon are aware of the current issues in Buckfastleigh which mainly occur on Friday and Saturday nights. The public are urged to ring 999 if people are drunk and being offensive.

Cllr Dan Simpson: From a pub point of view, Pubwatch does not work and not all licensed outlets are members.

Representative of Pubwatch: *The supermarket cannot share information with the public houses and cannot ban people drinking alcohol outside of the shop, but can refuse to serve a customer and then report this to the police.*

Cllr Pam Barrett: The bench opposite the Co-op is attracting drunken behaviour and alcohol is being purchased and consumed from the shop. A 'No Alcohol Designation Order' is in place in this area.

PC Will Young: Under the Licensing Act, the supermarket does have a responsibility to the public and staff should be made aware of the situation.

Cllr Barrett asked that the Pubwatch scheme is revived.

PC Will Young: Pubwatch must be run by the public houses.

Cllr Barrett suggested that a meeting is held in the Town Hall to facilitate cooperation between all the licensed premises in the town.

Member of the public: *Two homeless people were found sleeping under a staircase in Hamlyn Way flats which was reported to Teign Housing, but not the police which gave residents cause for concern.*

Action: The supermarket will monitor drunken behaviour more closely. The Clerk will arrange a Pubwatch meeting in the Town Hall and invite all the licensed premises to attend. It was noted that new 'No Alcohol Designation Order' signs have been erected by TDC around

the town centre.

PC Young and PCSO Yates advised the meeting that a radicalisation incident in the town concerning a local youth exploring far right attitudes had occurred. There is concern that other individuals may also be part of this and who is the underlying influence? The police are keen to promote diversity and prevent intolerance and asked for the support of the Town Council in this matter.

Cllr Andy Stokes: There is a mono-cultural community in Buckfastleigh so some misinformation may be circulated. It may help by thinking of ways for integration such as visits by others faiths to the community.

Cllr Neil Smith: There is a significant amount of racism in the town as demonstrated by the distribution of leaflets with racist themes and the reaction to the Council declaring Buckfastleigh as a refugee friendly town.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The Council could issue a statement to endorse tolerance.

Cllr Simon Rines: It is important not to create targets by including all organisations such as the churches, the football club and other organisations involved with young people.

Action: Cllrs Stokes and Jones to work on this issue. Cllr Rines to draft a statement to the community.

16/91. Urgent Items:

Item No 18) was brought forward by the Chair to address the proposal to close Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital.

Cllr Andy Stokes: The Town Council resolved at the May meeting to contest any hospital closure, but the consultation at that point had been deferred until September.

Cllr Stokes gave an update concerning the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the proposed closure of four community hospitals in the area. The CCG claim it is about saving money.

Working with Cllr Rines, Cllr Stokes has issued a press release to all local media and Cllr Rines has been interviewed on BBC Radio Devon. The consultation is flawed with leading and loaded questions.

Cllr Elaine Baker: The consultation is not fit for purpose. The stakeholder meeting was not minuted and the CCG representatives have refused to note public comments.

It was noted that three meetings have been arranged for Ashburton, but only one for Buckfastleigh. These are not open meetings, but have table top discussions which have been pre-arranged.

Cllr Andy Stokes: There needs to be more control over how the meetings are conducted.

Cllr Simon Rines: The questionnaire is manipulative and a letter to NHS England is being

drafted requesting that the consultation is suspended.

Cllr Baker asked for representation from Buckfastleigh. although Cllr Jones has attended in the past. and that the two communities unite over this matter.

16/92. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:

No reports.

16/93. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 27th July 2016:

Noted.

16/94. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 7th September 2016:

Noted.

16/95. To resolve the payment of the Town Council grant to the Buckfastleigh Town Hall Trust for 2016/17 under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:

Cllr Pam Barrett proposed that in accordance with the agreed budget for 2016/17, that a grant of £18,000 is paid to the Trust in two instalments to coincide with the receipt of the Precept by the Council which was seconded by Cllr Andy Stokes with all Members in agreement.

16/96. To discuss and resolve the Town Council grants process:

The Clerk had circulated a proposal to define the community grant funding process which includes the new Community Development Fund and TDC Elector Fund. The following points were unanimously agreed:-

- i) To use the same application process and timeframe for both funds;
- ii) To consider applications on two occasions each year which correspond with the deadline dates for the Elector Fund;
- iii) To promote the grants process to the community and for the Clerk to explain to applicants which fund may be appropriate for their activity or purpose;
- iv) Initial analysis of applications will be undertaken by the Finance Committee and if criteria has been met, recommendations resolved at full Council

Action: Clerk to publicise.

16/97. Review of Standing Orders deferred from the meeting held on 20th July 2016:

Decision: Resolved to adopt, no amendments required.

16/98. To discuss and resolve correspondence dated 15.08.16 from the Town Guide publishers:

Cllr Simon Rines: There is a contractual obligation that door to door delivery of the guide is undertaken by the Council. To date the new guide has been delivered to all the local tourist destinations and many businesses. The publishers are alleging that there has been a breach of contract. The Council resolved to deliver, but no timescale was agreed and the delay has been due to lack of resources. There is no breach if delivery is undertaken.

The working relationship as a result of this situation has broken down and there is the suggestion to terminate the contract early and look for a local designer. The guide has also been superseded by the new Buckfastleigh business directory.

Action: A draft letter had been circulated to Members to this effect by Cllr Rines and was agreed.

16/99. To discuss and agree a draft response to the Devon County Council letter – 05.07.16 to the complaint by the Town Council – 10.06.16 to the DCC Planning Department:

Cllr Simon Rines: It is felt that DCC have ignored the complaint made by the Town Council and that a request should be made to escalate this matter to stage 2 of the complaints procedure.

Decision: Members all agreed to the draft response.

16/100. Planning the Community Needs and Options Event to be held on 12th October 2016:

Cllr Pam Barrett gave a synopsis of the event to be hosted by the Town Council and the need to understand what the community wants.

The Main Hall will be used with around the table discussions to establish the top three priorities per table. Members agreed that the meeting should commence at 6.30pm to deal with statutory agenda items and that the event takes place at 7.30pm.

16/101. Chairman's Announcements: None

16/102. Clerk's Announcements: None

16/103. Correspondence: None

16/104. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Pam Barrett: TDC have been unable to provide the data requested concerning actual per capita spend on Buckfastleigh. It was noted that no park activities for children were organised by TDC over the summer. What, if any is the District Council's strategy for tackling child poverty in the area?

The Council is disappointed regarding the lack of attendance to Town Council meetings by local elected representatives other than Cllr John Nutley.

Cllr Simon Rines: The new parking working party has held its first meeting and a list of action points have been drawn up. The Neighbourhood Plan steering group has also met to discuss the next stage of the plan.

The Council is awaiting the reviews of both the Dartmoor National Park Authority and Teignbridge District Council Local Plans.

Cllr Pam Barrett: A meeting with a representative of TDC took place to collate information regarding all the open spaces in the district and it was found that the asset list held by TDC for Buckfastleigh is inaccurate.

Cllr Janet Jones attended the Royal British Legion commemorative event for the Battle of the Somme, presented trophies at the annual horticultural and garden show in August, the Rotary Club art exhibition at Buckfast Abbey and a management committee meeting at Buckfast Village Hall. Cllr Jones also attended the September full Council meeting at Ashburton Town Council regarding the Linhay Quarry planning application which will be discussed at the Planning, Environment and Transport meeting in October. Comments regarding this application can be posted on the DNPA website.

It was noted that every time the ATM machine at the Post Office is used, 2p is donated back to the community for local projects.

The Clerk is awaiting responses to invitations sent to neighbouring parishes to join a proposed parish cluster group to share ideas and resources.

16/105. Urgent Items:

None

The meeting closed at 9.54pm.

Signed.....

Date.....