

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors: Pam Barrett (Chair), Janet Jones, Simon Rines, Mark Maish, Greg Porter and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: No press in attendance

In attendance: Councillor John Nutley (District)

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/135. Apologies:

Councillors: Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Linus McCloskey, Dan Simpson, Neil Smith, Andy Stokes and Stuart Barker (County & District)
PCSO James Yates (Ashburton Police Station)

16/136. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None .

16/137. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9th November 2016:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

16/138. Questions raised by the Public: No public in attendance

16/139. Police Report:

The Police Report for November was read out by the Chair:-

53 incidents for Buckfastleigh with 6 related to the A38 and 14 recorded crimes.

A burglary had taken place on 23rd November where access was gained to a dwelling by smashing a panel in the back door and reaching the key. Numerous items of value were stolen and the police would like to remind householders not to leave keys within the reach of external doors.

A local public house suffered criminal damage, including graffiti with the use of homophobic words on 29th November. The public are reminded to report anti-social behaviour using the 999 number during an incident and 101 after the event. The next surgery will be held on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 10.30am in St. Luke's Church.

16/140. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:

Report from Cllr John Nutley: -

- Two new officers will be joining Ashburton Police Station.
- The Council Tax reduction scheme for households claiming Universal Credit will lose £3.00 per week under the new rules. This will cause further suffering to low income families and increase the use of food banks.

- Teignbridge District Council have proposed to increase the Council Tax by £5.00 per household for 2017/18 and it was noted that the cap on social care spending has been lifted.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The Town Council will be looking at the levels of poverty in our community and will be asking Teignbridge District Council (TDC) and Devon County Council (DCC) to discuss the issue and help develop an action plan to alleviate this.

Cllr Janet Jones: There is no correlation between funding and where poverty exists.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The Council has requested sight of the parks and leisure budget, but to date there has been no response from TDC. What is the criteria as to how and where the budget is spent?

Cllr Nutley agreed that funding seems to be weighted towards Newton Abbot, Dawlish and Teignmouth, but Ashburton and Buckfastleigh still contribute towards this with little return.

Cllr Pam Barrett noted the Council's strong objection to the 12% pay rise awarded to the Chief Executive of TDC together with a further 6% increase and bonuses.

Objection proposed by Cllr Simon Rines and seconded by Cllr Barrett.

Cllr John Nutley: A protest march against the proposed closure of Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital will take place on Saturday 21st January and requested support for this

A report from Cllr Stuart Barker was read out by the Chair: -

- DCC Councillors have unanimously agreed to write to NHS England to request the suspension of the consultation on hospitals until new models of care are in place with a review of effectiveness.
- Following Cllr Barker's paper on funding adult social care, two questions have been raised in the Prime Ministers Question Time about adequate funding and bringing forward the Better Care Fund increase promised for 2018/19.
- DCC have proposed to increase adult social care spending by 9.6% and the Council Tax by 2%.
- TDC are establishing a housing organisation to ensure the provision of more social housing in the area. Initially it is intended to use existing sites that Teignbridge own.
- Additional traffic regulations have been advertised to address pinch point areas in the centre of Buckfastleigh and in particular, Jordan Street, where access by larger lorries to Kings Wood is restricted.
- A property in Plymouth Road has again been damaged by a lorry which was longer than the advised limit attempting to turn into Bossell Road. Devon Highways Officers have visited this area of the town to assess the issues. An initial request for a new sign at the car park has been requested by Cllr Barker to advise that lorries over 9m in length are not permitted to go beyond that point.

It was agreed by Members that HGV movements in Plymouth Road and Bossell Road are very dangerous to pedestrians, property and the primary school. Larger lorries are now being used and

driven at speed which is unacceptable. DCC need to enforce length restriction signage.

16/141. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 23rd November 2016:

Noted.

16/142. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 7th December 2016:

Noted.

16/143. Feedback from the Town Council stall at the Buckfastleigh Christmas Fair held on 7th December 2016 and to discuss the next steps for funding projects in 2017/18:

Cllr Pam Barrett: Feedback from the community engagement funding exercise at the Christmas Fair was very positive and Judith and her daughter, Katrina Hart were thanked for creating and hosting the stall together with the Christmas Fair Committee for an excellent evening.

It was suggested to bring back the 'Pride of Buckfastleigh' recognition scheme – item to be discussed at a future meeting.

16/144. Community Composting and Recycling Consultation:

Cllr Mark Maish: The proposals reduce the incentive to recycle by decreasing the composting credit rate by over 50% which will have a negative impact on existing and new community composting groups. Access to recycling sites by larger vehicles is also being restricted.

It has been noted that there has already been an increase in the amount of fly tipping due to the charge imposed for removing garden waste.

Decision: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Maish and respond to the consultation by 23rd December 2016.

16/145. Whitecleave Quarry Working Party Update:

Following requests by the Clerk, the delayed mediation process should be re-visited in the New Year. It was noted that there are still planning breaches at the quarry which have not been addressed.

Minutes of the Whitecleave Quarry Working Party meeting held on 22nd November 2016 were noted.

16/146. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Pam Barrett as Chair of the Town Council requested that it is recorded that she has no prejudicial or conflict of interest regarding her position as Chair of Victoria Park.

16/147. Clerk's Announcements: None

16/148. Correspondence:

Response from TDC – 09.12.16 re new car parking machines. The Council has received assurances that the ambiguous and difficult to read instructions on the new machines will be more user friendly with new signage. Following the recent theft of some machines, it has been confirmed that no personal information can be extracted and used for criminal intent.

16/149. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllrs Janet Jones and Simon Rines had attended the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) Local Plan Review and questioned why two greenfield sites in Buckfastleigh have been allocated for development when such a low number of new houses have been agreed?

Cllr John Nutley: TDC have proposed to dispose of land at three sites in Buckfastleigh to Teign Housing to enable the development of affordable housing although two of the three parcels of land are now being sold as allotment/garden land to existing residents.

Action: Members expressed their very serious concerns regarding the lack of communication, transparency and consultation with the Town Council. Are there plans for other areas of land which the Town Council has not been made aware of?

Cllr Simon Rines proposed that a complaint is made by the Town Council which was seconded by Cllr Mark Maish. Clerk to request that the process is stopped and investigated and that all relevant correspondence is released

Cllrs Janet Jones and Simon Rines met with representatives of Kier Highways regarding the A38 landscaping works from Dean Prior to Dart Bridge. The work will provide visual screening and the ongoing management of trees, but they had not been aware of the noise issues and have agreed to look at Buckfastleigh as a potential A38 noise hotspot with a view to using a road noise reduction surface in the future.

Cllr Janet Jones: At the AGM of Buckfast Village Hall it was noted that the annual accounts show a slight profit and that the building continues to be well maintained.

The Clerk provided an update from Cllr Linus McCloskey regarding the new Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Service which has now provided three weekly surgeries at the Buckfastleigh Medical Centre providing information, advice and support to seven residents. The service will resume after the Christmas break on Friday 6th January from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

16/150. Urgent Items: None

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....