

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 20th July 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Janet Jones (Deputy Chair), Pamela Forbes, Fanny Jackson, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: No Press in attendance

In attendance: Cllr John Nutley (District & Ashburton TC) and 8 members of the public including grant recipients.

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/64. Apologies:

Councillors: Pam Barrett, Ron Fox, Simon Rines, Dan Simpson, Neil Smith, Andy Stokes and Stuart Barker (District & County)

16/65. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None .

16/66. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 8th June 2016:

Signed and approved by Councillor Janet Jones.

16/67. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29th June 2016:

Signed and approved by Councillor Janet Jones.

16/68. New Town Councillors Enrolment:

The Deputy Chair welcomed newly elected Councillors Pamela Forbes and Greg Porter to the Town Council.

Both Cllrs Forbes and Porter will join the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee and Cllr Porter will also be a member of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee.

16/69. Questions raised by the Public:

Member of Public: *Although there are numerous organisations working on projects to improve the town, there is an increasing amount of overgrown vegetation, particularly from Dart Bridge Road to Strode Road.*

Cllr Janet Jones confirmed that she had met with Cllr Stuart Barker and the Highways Officer to discuss a number of issues effecting the whole of the parish including overgrown vegetation, and was advised that due to cutbacks only visual splays adjacent to highways are cut on a regular basis.

Cllr John Nutley: Blocked gulleys and drains have been reported to Devon County Council due to the potential flood hazards, but this type of work has been significantly reduced.

Cllr Janet Jones: Town Centre drains are now only cleared once every three years and it was agreed with Cllr Barker that this is unsatisfactory.

Member of the Public: *The two parish sweepers should however, be congratulated for their efforts.*

The continuous problem of blocked drains and gulleys along Wallaford Road was also raised by members of the public and how this impacts on Crest Hill and Bossell Road at times of heavy rain.

16/70. Grants Presentation:

Participate Arts, the Lamb Pie Day Committee and SPLASH each received a £250.00 grant from the Town Council which were presented by Cllr Janet Jones.

16/71. Police Report:

The report for June was summarised by the Deputy Chair with 56 incidents and 12 crimes in Buckfastleigh.

It was noted that a 21-year-old man is wanted by the police for a breach of an electronic tagging order.

‘The Big Book of Little Scams’ publication is now available free to local residents in the Town Hall and regular surgeries with PCSO James Yates take place in St. Luke’s Church.

16/72. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:

The Clerk read a report provided by Cllr Stuart Barker: -

There has been an increase in hate crime and racial abuse since the EU Referendum. Devon County Council (DCC) employs around 10% of staff from within and outside the EU, mostly to fill vacancies in the care sector. A 24-hour support service is available for anyone who is a victim of race crime and victims are encouraged to contact the police.

The draft SW Devolution bid is currently going to all the partners to be supported in principal. It is expected to be supported by the Government before the autumn statement.

DCC is currently supporting around 540 more people this year than budgeted for to live independently at home.

The Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) for health and care in Devon will soon be going to scrutiny committees. The plan identifies that the health service will need to find another £150 million per year in Devon if no action is taken. Consultation starts in September.

Cllr John Nutley expressed his concern that a further £49,000 has been spent by Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to meet the costs of the ‘Big Weekend’ held in May which had originally been allocated £100,000.

Cllr John Nutley: A couple of race related incidents have recently occurred in Ashburton following the EU Referendum which were raised at the last TDC meeting. This behaviour is unsettling to our diverse communities and a robust policy of zero tolerance has been adopted.

Cllr Janet Jones requested an update regarding the Linhay Hill Quarry, Ashburton planning application and advised that the Town Council wants to support Ashburton Town Council (ATC), but would welcome more information.

Cllr John Nutley: It is proposed that the working life of the quarry is extended for a further 60 years and an informal consultation meeting will be held with those residents most effected by the plans. Ashburton Town Councillors have attended a site visit with the quarry operator. Bunds will be installed and visually only a chimney will be seen by the surrounding community, but the Council is currently examining the lengthy planning documents prior to making any comments.

The quarry operator has 240 employees and have been a very helpful and proactive company within the community with a reasonable approach to issues. Two public exhibitions have been held in Ashburton Town Hall.

Action: ATC to provide a report and/or representation to the Town Council Planning, Environment and Transport Committee meeting scheduled for August following the grant of an extension for comments by statutory consultees by the planning authority.

Action: Cllr Rines to arrange a steering group meeting, invite the original members of the group and send out the draft Neighbourhood Plan to those involved.

16/73. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 22nd June 2016:

Noted

To resolve the following recommendations from Minute Nos:

16/21. Revised Budget Report 2016/17 and clarification of budget for the new Community Development Fund.

Proposal: that £10,000 is transferred from Council Reserves for the purpose of the Community Development Fund. Proposed by Cllr Linus McCloskey, seconded by Cllr Mark Maish with all in favour.

16/24. Grant Applications – South Devon Rail and Road Services – Vintage Bus grant award resolution.

The Clerk explained that the vintage bus could receive a £250.00 grant under the delegated powers of the Finance Committee or as the request is for £300.00 this would need to be resolved at this meeting. South Devon Railway chose the second option.

Decision: Resolved – to be awarded at the September Town Council meeting.

16/74. To receive the minutes of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 5th July 2016:

Noted

16/75. To receive the minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee held on 6th July 2016:

Noted

16/41. Planning Application – Linhay Hill Quarry, Ashburton – adjoining parish consultation response by Buckfastleigh Town Council to be agreed.

Decision: Plan of action agreed under Agenda Item No 5)

16/46. Correspondence – Response from Devon County Council to Town Council Complaint 10.06.16 to be noted for discussion at a later date.

16/76. Town Council Projects for 2016/17:

Cllr Fanny Jackson: No prior consultation has been made with Councillors about this item, the other projects identified and the document was circulated too late by the Chair.

The Town Clerk: This is just a summary of current projects and a progress update to Members.

Cllr Mark Maish was added to the dog fouling working party and the solar panel initiative included on the project list.

Cllr Linus McCloskey: This should be a standing item so that Councillors can keep up to date with projects and working parties.

At the request of a member of the public Cllr Janet Jones read out the list.

The Park Ranger has confirmed that a Buckfastleigh Community Path Day has been arranged for 17th September 2016, but the Council is awaiting further details.

Cllr John Nutley: At the recent meeting of the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh League of Friends meeting, it was agreed that the League of Friends will contribute funding to the creation of helipads at both the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh sites, but this will not include the repair of the existing lights at the Duckspend playing field.

16/77. Proposal to hold a Town Council and Town Hall Trust Open Day:

Members agreed that this requires further discussion with the Chair. It was noted that a tea party and open day has already been arranged for the Trust on Sunday 14th August.

16/78. Review of Standing Orders:

Item deferred until the September meeting.

16/79. Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Service for Buckfastleigh:

Cllr Linus McCloskey: The original CAB outreach service for Buckfastleigh was disbanded some years ago due to lack of use. It has been agreed that this service is now needed and can be facilitated for one session per week at the Medical Centre.

Cllr McCloskey has completed the CAB training to provide this service and it is proposed that a pilot scheme for a one-year trial period with one volunteer is facilitated.

The Medical Centre have offered free use of a room with a monthly £20.00 charge to cover the use of a telephone.

From 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, 481 clients from the Buckfastleigh and Ashburton ward used the CAB service with 54.3% of the advice for benefits and tax credits and 15.8% for debt problems.

£1,742.00 is required to set up the service in Buckfastleigh for one year. The Clerk asked what budget would be identified by the Council for this purpose to meet the cost and suggested that the CDF may be appropriate.

Action: Members agreed that this should be referred to the next Finance Committee for further discussion.

16/80. Chairman's Announcements: None

16/81. Clerk's Announcements: None

16/82. Correspondence: None

16/83. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Mark Maish: Attended three school council meetings. Buckfastleigh Primary School are looking at improving playground facilities and the children are very enthusiastic about this project. Jellyfish Productions have also produced a film involving the children.

Cllrs Janet Jones and Fanny Jackson will be attending the Buckfast Village Hall committee meeting and AGM on 23rd July 2016 to provide a Town Council update.

Cllr Janet Jones: Attended the annual Commonwealth Raising of the Flag event at Forde House on behalf of the Council where it was agreed by TDC that that this should be more of an occasion in the future.

16/84. Urgent Items:

None

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Signed.....

Date.....