

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 21st June 2017 at 7:30pm

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

Press: No press in attendance.

In attendance: 5 members of the public and John Keohane (South Devon Rail & Road Services) re Agenda Item No. 3) Grants Presentation

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/51. Apologies: Councillors Dan Simpson, John Nutley (District) and Stuart Barker (District & County).

17/52. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

17/53. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2017:

Signed and approved by Cllr. Pam Barrett

17/54. Questions raised by the Public:

A member of the public raised concern regarding the alleged use of herbicidal sprays by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) to control the spread of bracken on the Moor. The Health and Safety Executive have confirmed that no licences have been issued for spraying across the National Park for 2017, but this does not preclude that this area is excluded for the remainder of the year.

Cllr Mark Maish gave an update regarding the dangers of using non-organic chemicals and that 26 % of Dartmoor has been awarded international biodiversity status.

Member of the public: *What can the Town Council do to prevent the use of chemicals on the Moor and the detrimental effect this has on water courses, wildlife and native species etc?*

Members agreed that the Council needs to establish what chemicals are being used and how does DNPA stand on protecting biodiversity. The Town Council can lobby the Park and express public concern, but has no statutory powers to stop the use of herbicides. It was suggested that the member of public highlights this matter further by submitting a Freedom of Information request to DNPA and send the same request to her MP and Cllr Stuart Barker.

Action: Clerk to write to DNPA to request a copy of their policy and a definitive statement regarding the use of chemicals and what is being used on the Moor. Is there any statutory control to protect and enhance biodiversity? When this information has been received the Council will also look at the response of landowners in the area.

Matter to be discussed further at the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee scheduled for 5th July 2017.

17/55. Grants Presentation to South Devon Rail and Road Services for the Vintage Bus:

Cllr Pam Barrett was pleased to award £300.00 towards the annual cost of running the vintage bus and extended her thanks on behalf of the Town Council to all the volunteers who help maintain and run this popular service during the summer season.

17/56. Police report:

The report for May had been circulated to Members prior to this meeting which was noted.

17/57. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors and to discuss the effectiveness of updates and how this could be improved:

The Chair summarised a report provided by Cllr Stuart Barker:-

- Cllr Barker has been appointed to the Devon County Council Cabinet with responsibility for the Economy, Skills and Training which will include post 16 education, Trading Standards, Broadband, membership of the SW Local Enterprise Partnership and the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.
- The definition of priorities for highways maintenance and funding was also explained within the report.

Members discussed the continued lack of representation by Ward Members at this meeting and the value of the reports without the author being present to answer any questions. It was felt that the County and District Councillors are not representing the community and Members would like to know in advance of this meeting what topics may be addressed to allow the Town Council the opportunity to discuss further. At present, there is only a one-way channel of communication.

Action: The relationship of the Ward Members with the Town Council and community to be an agenda item for this meeting in the near future and the Clerk to invite all three Members to attend.

17/58. To receive the minutes of the Non-Quorate Finance Committee held on 24th May 2017:
Noted.**17/59. To discuss the Independent Auditor's Report and sign and minute the Accounting Statement of the Annual Return 2016/17:**

The Independent Auditor's report was noted and the Accounting Statement of the Annual Return was approved and signed by the Chair and Town Clerk.

The Clerk was thanked for her work on the preparation of the end of year accounts and Annual Return and the assistance given by the Chair of Finance, Cllr Andy Stokes.

17/60. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 7th June 2017: Noted.**17/61. Town Council Projects update:**

- Community solar panels – Quotes for the Town Hall are due shortly and the energy assessment for the swimming pool are still ongoing.
- Helipad – The technical requirements have been completed, but Teignbridge District Council are still adding restrictions. Toby Russell, the Community Helipads Development

Officer will continue to pursue this on behalf of Devon Air Ambulance and the Town Council.

- Free activities for young people – An extensive and varied programme is being arranged for the school summer holidays. A larger grant has now been secured which will enable the Town Council to recruit and fund a part-time project organiser.
- Community Development Fund – Members agreed that any applications received will be assessed by a panel in the autumn.
- The CAB outreach service – Cllr Linus McCloskey provided an update to the meeting. It was noted that Cllr McCloskey has ensured that £48,825 has been raised from successful benefit applications on behalf of local resident claimants. Cllr McCloskey was thanked and congratulated for his work.
Teignbridge District Council (TDC) funds the Teignbridge CAB, but there are no outreach services in Ashburton, Bovey Tracey etc and there is no guarantee that funding by TDC will continue indefinitely. There is the suggestion that all the Town Council within the Teignbridge area submit a joint application for funding from ‘Awards for All’ and it was agreed that Buckfastleigh Town Council would support this initiative.
- Town Ranger – The Clerk was pleased to report that Matthew McLeod will shortly be in post as the new Town Ranger.

17/62. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:

It was suggested that Members look at producing a six-monthly news update to highlight to the community what has been achieved by the Town Council and how the budget is being spent.

17/63. Planning for the public participatory budget 2018/19 consultation:

Cllr Andy Stokes confirmed that the consultation event will take place on Monday 10th July in St. Luke’s Church Hall from 7.30 to 9.30pm and that the Council is seeking views and suggestions from local residents to assess what the community wants, no longer want and the results of the last budget.

17/64. Chair’s Announcements: None

17/65. Clerk’s Announcements: None

17/66. Correspondence:

Email 08.06.17 from the Clerk to West Buckfastleigh Parish Council – request from the Parish Council to have their own engraving on the new Boundary Stone at Hockmoor Head to identify their parish.

Decision: Agreed on the condition that West Buckfastleigh PC liaises with the Park Ranger and meets the cost of the additional engraving.

17/67. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Simon Rines provided an update regarding the recent Pubwatch meeting facilitated by the Town Council and that the summer zero tolerance campaign has now been launched.

The Festival of Sports and Colourscape weekend has been organised for the 15th and 16th July with a wide range of sporting taster sessions arranged to take place in the Duckpond Playing Field and Victoria Park.

Councillors Fanny Jackson and Ron Fox left the meeting at 9.35pm.

Cllr Janet Jones was pleased to report that she had attended a Buckfast Village Hall management meeting and that this community facility continues to be financially stable with regular bookings.

Cllr Jones reported that at a meeting of the Clinical Commissioning Group at Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital that they continue to look at developing other services in addition to existing clinics and are awaiting a decision as to whether the Ashburton Doctors surgery will move into the hospital premises.

It was noted that the settlement profile for Buckfastleigh within the Dartmoor Local Plan which is now online, needs to be updated by the Park.

Cllr Mark Maish: The recent ‘Rambunctious night’ was again very successful with more planned soon and thanks to all the volunteers involved.

Cllr Pamela Forbes advised that she is now attending the police surgeries held in St. Luke’s and has reported the increasing incidents of vehicles speeding through the town.

Cllr Forbes requested that the issue of lack of maintenance to footpaths by both DNPA and TDC should be discussed further at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr Andy Stokes confirmed that the Kilbury Weir hydro-power project continues to progress, he is involved with the Save Our Hospital Services Devon Public Group and the recent Big Lunch event held in Victoria Park was a great success.

17/68. Urgent Items: None.

Meeting went in to Part II (Private) To receive the Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 11th May 2017.

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 10.02pm.

Signed Date