

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Pam Barrett (Deputy Chair), Ron Fox, Fanny Jackson, Janet Jones, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey, Dan Simpson, Neil Smith, Graham Squires, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

**Press:** Mid Devon Advertiser

In attendance: Revd Tom Benson and 10 members of the public.

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

### **16/212. Questions raised by the Public:**

Revd. Tom Benson explained Holy Trinity's importance to the community and the cost of maintaining the cemetery grounds. He explained that Wedding blessings are carried out at Holy Trinity Church and art installation events are now being booked.

Agenda item 11. was brought forward by the Chair.

### **16/213. Application for grant funding towards the grass cutting at Holy Trinity Church:**

Cllr Neil Smith explained that this item was deferred from the Finance Committee due to the amount requested. The Finance Members agreed that it is important to maintain the graveyard and noted that it is an amenity that could attract more community use.

Cllr Janet Jones abstained from this discussion and vote.

Cllr Neil Smith: Proposed a grant of £1,800 which was seconded by Cllr Mark Maish with all Members in favour of the full grant award for 2016/17.

### **16/214. Police Report:**

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

75 incidents had been recorded with 17 relating to the A38 and 15 crimes.

It was noted that there have been some incidents of sheep worrying by dogs, dangerous dogs that are out of control and telephone scams which target the elderly. The police also highlighted the ongoing problem of parents parking on the zig zag lines outside the primary school which are there to keep pedestrians and school children safe.

Agenda Item 4. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors was deferred to follow Agenda Item 8.

### **16/215. Apologies:**

Councillors: Billy Hartstein, Simon Rines, Stuart Barker (District & County) Charlie Dennis and John Nutley (District)

**16/216. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None .

**16/217. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016:**

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett.

**16/218. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016.**

Noted.

To resolve the following recommendations from Minutes Nos:

16/89. Buckfastleigh Town Council Financial Regulations – updated version to review and recommend for resolution. To include a review of independent audit provision. Proposed by Cllr Neil Smith, seconded by Cllr Andy Stokes with all in favour.

16/90. Review of Risk Assessment Management 2016 to recommend for adoption by resolution. Proposed by Cllr Neil Smith, seconded by Cllr Andy Stokes with all in favour.

16/91. Review of Statement of Internal Control 2016 to recommend for adoption by resolution. Cllr Neil Smith, seconded by Cllr Andy Stokes with all in favour.

16/92. Review of Investment Strategy 2016 to recommend for adoption by resolution with one amendment. Proposed by Cllr Andy Stokes, seconded by Cllr Graham Squires with all in favour.

**16/219. Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors:**

The Chair summarised a report provided by Cllr Stuart Barker which included the following points:-

- A combined bid by Devon County Council (DCC), the District and Unitary authorities in Devon for devolution has been submitted to Government which has opened a dialogue. Teignbridge Association of Local Councils and Devon Association for Local Councils will be responsible for relaying information to the towns and parishes, but this is just the start of the process.

Cllr Pam Barrett: There are lots of questions with few answers at the present time and there is concern regarding planning decisions and who will be making them. The Town Council is interested in becoming more involved in this process.

- The new DCC budget has targeted social care, highways and gully cleaning and reversed the decision to cease providing a school crossing service.
- The flood improvement works to the Station Road area by the Environment Agency are due to commence, but the residents parking issue has still not been resolved. Discussion is taking place to temporarily suspend on-street parking restrictions.

**16/220. To receive the draft minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016:**

Noted.

**16/221. To appoint a new Chair for the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee:**

Cllr Dan Simpson has resigned from this position and nominated Cllr Simon Rines which was seconded by Cllr Ron Fox with all Members in favour. Cllr Rines duly appointed.

**16/222. Proposal to set up a Working Party for the separation of the Town Council and Town Hall Trust:**

Cllr Pam Barrett: Buckfastleigh Town Hall is a trust run by a board of trustees. The current trustee is Buckfastleigh Town Council. The Town Council and the Town Hall trust are separate entities and as such, need to have separate governance and financial controls. The separation of the two organisations has been agreed at previous meetings and the practical issues are now being addressed. A business plan meeting for the Town Hall is being arranged by the Town Hall Administrator. The cost of running the Town Hall is significant and the Precept has been covering half this cost.

**Decision:** Councillors Barrett, Jackson, McCloskey, Stokes, Simpson and Maish appointed to this working party.

**16/223. Formation of a Working Party to look at parking provision in the town:**

Cllr Andy Stokes: It has been brought to the attention of the Town Council that the parking situation in the town is getting worse. The issues around Old Totnes Road has highlighted this. It is suggested that residents who are interested or affected by this should be part of a working party and bring ideas to full Council. Parking is also part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

A parking permit is not always viable and the parking problems in the centre of town is moving it out to other areas. Aggressive ticketing by Enforcement is also exacerbating this situation.

Member of Public: *There are areas that could be designated for free parking, but car parks generate revenue.*

**Action:** Clerk to advertise re interest and arrange a meeting when volunteers come forward. It would be useful if there is representation from all the areas affected.

Cllrs Jones and Stokes agreed to convene the first meeting.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The Council has no authority over parking, but can bring ideas together and lobby the County and District Councils.

**16/224. Chairman's Announcements:** None

**16/225. Clerk's Announcements:**

The Clerk had attended the Society of Local Council Clerks conference earlier that day which had been informative.

**16/226. Correspondence:** None

**16/227. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:**

Cllr Janet Jones: The first meeting of the Royal British Legion working party has been held with a view to reinstating a branch for Buckfastleigh. Volunteers do not have to be ex-members of the forces. The group will need a club house and the next meeting to be held in the Town Hall is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm.

Cllr Janet Jones: The helipad site visits were carried out with Cllrs Jackson and Fox and Toby Russell, the Community Helipads Development Officer. The football pitch has been assessed as the only suitable site due to the existing lights making it accessible for night flying. It is however, too isolated from the community and Duckspound playing field would be a preferable location, but will require lighting at a cost of £1,500 which would have to be met from community funding. A second meeting is to be arranged.

Cllr Mark Maish: There is a proposal that Buckfastleigh Primary School becomes part of a much larger Academy Trust with a combination of 17 schools. Currently it is part of the South Dartmoor Academy Trust.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The Victoria Park Trust has appointed companies to build the skate park, play equipment and other improvements to the park. Design consultations are due to take place shortly and work is expected to commence in June with completion by September. The Trust are hoping to link activities with local sports groups.

Cllrs Andy Stokes: A community energy event is due to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March in the Town Hall following funding from the Devon Association of Renewable Energy. A second Community Engagement evening is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March also in the Town Hall. Invitations have been sent out to community groups who will have the opportunity to meet and share their ideas. A community questionnaire has been created and space will be available on the Council website for this purpose.

Cllr Linus McCloskey: A Dementia Friendly meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> March and the information from this will be presented at a later date. Simple things can be achieved to help people who are suffering from dementia such as a memory café and a new healthy walks initiative has started.

Cllr Neil Smith: Weedkiller is being used around the Duckspound playing field where children play which is of concern.

**Action:** Clerk to clarify with TDC as to what is being used and what is their policy regarding the use of carcinogenic phosphates.

Cllr Ron Fox: Various improvements are being carried out to the swimming pool including a new kitchen and showers.

Cllr Barret confirmed that the provisional opening date for the pool is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May and that it has been a year since the Trust took over the running of the pool by themselves. They are now looking to recruit lifeguards and need more volunteers. It is hoped that the Friends of Buckfastleigh Pool can be reactivated. Grants only provide capital funding with revenue coming from ticket sales, events and donations.

Cllr Neil Smith also suggested that the Council could look at the use of time credits and that the Totnes Pound could be extended to other towns. This is a massive tourist draw and is not a large financial burden as it has free marketing.

Meeting went in to Part II (Private) and the public left at 9.05pm

### **16/228. Urgent Items:**

Discussed under Part II

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.35pm.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....