

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7:30pm

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

Press: No press in attendance.

In attendance: 6 members of the public

Part I (Open to the Public)

18/160. Apologies: Cllrs Dan Simpson, Pamela Forbes, Greg Porter, John Nutley (District) and Stuart Barker (County and District)

18/161. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

18/162. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2017:

Signed and approved by Cllr. Pam Barrett

18/163. Questions raised by the Public:

Member of the Public: *Pleased to see that the Town Council is pursuing a dog fouling initiative, but the location of the dog waste bins is not clear.*

The Council, as part of this campaign, is looking for dog owner volunteers who can highlight the problem with the use of fluorescent spray which is available from the Town Hall. The Town Ranger will be contacting Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to obtain free 'dog poo' bags and stickers which show litter bins that can be used as well as designated dog bins. New Town Council promotional material is also being designed for circulation.

Member of the Public: *One of the perspex panes to the Higher Mill Lane bus shelter has been broken.*

It was confirmed that this had already been reported to the Town Ranger.

Member of the Public: *Allegation of aggressive ticketing by civil enforcement officers.*

The Town Council has no statutory powers to prevent ticketing of vehicles if parked illegally, however a parking review working party is being arranged for a date in February and residents who have issues with parking are encouraged to attend to raise their concerns and identify problem areas in the town. The Town Council can then make recommendations to the highways authority although it was noted that these may be refused.

18/164. Reports from the Police, County and District Councillors:

No reports available prior to this meeting.

It was suggested that District and County Councillors' reports are published online. Verbal updates at the meeting and written reports are often not received until just before the meeting (or after) so Town Councillors are receiving retrospective information and therefore do not have the opportunity to have any input or influence decisions.

18/165. To receive the minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held on 3rd January 2018:

Members noted the change in the name of this committee to the Environment and Transport Committee (ETC). It was emphasised that the Town Council is a consultee and not a decision maker when it comes to planning issues. The Committee will continue to respond to planning applications but without the pretence that there is any influence on the outcome.

Cllr Neil Smith stressed that the Town Council has no formal input or power.

When new terms of reference for this committee have been agreed at the next ETC meeting, a letter will be drafted by Cllr Andy Stokes and sent to Teignbridge District Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority to this effect.

18/166. Town Council Projects update: Moved to Agenda Item No. 7, Minute No. 18/168

18/167. Update re Planning Application - DCC/4032/2017 for continued temporary use of offices, workshop and storage detailed in planning permission 15/01695/DCC at Whitecleave Quarry, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh until 31st July 2018:

Members agreed that this new application is not a valid.

Action: Cllr Simon Rines and the Clerk are working on a response on behalf of the Town Council.

18/166 & 168. To discuss the planning, management and communication issues for projects for 2018:

Projects and events for 2018 were listed as follows:

Environment and Transport Committee:

A flood practice exercise with the Environment Agency has been arranged for Tuesday 27th March and will be advertised in due course

Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan – the Clerk will apply for funding to Locality to enable a Green Infrastructure Strategy document to be produced to support and enhance the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Ownership of community assets – Members of the Town Council have met with TDC again to look at all the TDC held assets within the parish. TDC have however, stipulated that they would only agree to a transfer to the Town Council of all their assets (excluding the car parks) which includes various green spaces and buildings and not selected plots. Members agreed that public opinion should be sought as this would be a substantial financial and resource undertaking for the Council.

Herbicides – the use of non-organic herbicides and pesticides and replacing with an environmentally friendly alternative still needs to be resolved.

Dog fouling – the Council is now promoting responsible dog ownership with a new campaign.

Parking – a parking review working party will meet on a date to be arranged in February, but public contribution is needed.

Other current projects include the installation of solar panels to the swimming pool, the hydropower project on the river Dart and the proposed A38 corridor cycle path.

Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee:

'Colourscape' will return for a second year and form part of the summer festival to be held at the football field on 14th and 15th July. Cllr Simon Rines is also looking at how this event could be linked to Victoria Park and the Cinema club in the Town Hall.

Youth activities and 'Hello Summer' – this project will continue with the use of local providers but will be enhanced by new and exciting events and activities for the school holidays and some term time dates. Youth activities and a new outreach service is being developed with a partnership agency who will also oversee larger activities such as a day at the zoo.

Buckfast Abbey- will be celebrating its Millennium with a wide range of events during 2018. It has been agreed that the Town Council can link into this celebration by promoting the town and its attractions.

New business and community directories have been created.

A new cultural strategy for the town will be developed during 2018.

Finance Committee:

2018/19 budget - the budget was ratified at the December full Council meeting and the precept submitted to TDC. A participatory budget consultation event will again be held in July in preparation for the 2019/20 budget.

Grants – the Council is keen to promote a well-being strategy which includes supporting organisations such as Buckfastleigh Naturally Healthy and Buckfastleigh Community Care.

Community training – following the success of the free community training sessions in 2017, a new 'Heart of Buckfastleigh' festival is being arranged to take place on Saturday 16th June which will be an opportunity for all our volunteer groups and organisations to network, showcase their activities and raise their profiles to attract more public support and volunteers. The day will also include entertainment, music, food and will end with an awards ceremony to celebrate and acknowledge the different roles and achievements of our volunteers.

Invitations are being sent to every group we have contact details for and further discussion will take place at the February Town Council meeting.

The community training sessions have ceased for the time-being as the trainer is moving out of the county, but it was noted that although a wide range of local organisations did attend the sessions, only two were regular attendees.

One example of a successful new initiative has been the Memory Café at the Valiant Soldier where two groups are working together to promote a social well-being activity for those suffering from memory loss.

The Town Council is also keen to support groups who are properly constituted and can demonstrate that they have proper strategies in place to enable them to achieve successful funding bids. There is concern that many organisations are run by retired people who over time, may not be replaced.

The Council would like to develop a health and well-being strategy to support community cohesion and the new landing site for Devon Air Ambulance is one important example of how this can be achieved.

Action: Cllrs Janet Jones, Simon Rines and Mark Maish to forming a working group to discuss this further.

Cllr Pam Barrett asked the Chairs to discuss all the projects relevant to their Committees at their next meeting.

18/169. Chair's Announcements: None

18/170. Clerk's Announcements: None

18/171. Correspondence: None

18/172. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Simon Rines: The Cinema Club is doing well and generally well attended. Equipment set-up time would be reduced and improved if the projector could be permanently mounted in the Main Hall with a motorised screen. These facilities could also be used for events and conferences. An outdoor cinema showing of the 'Hound of the Baskervilles' at Holy Trinity Church is being planned for the summer.

Cllr Janet Jones reported that she had attended the Buckfast Village Hall AGM.

Cllr Linus McCloskey: The Citizens Advice outreach service continues to be well used. The Buckfastleigh model is now being used in Moretonhampstead, Chudleigh and a number of other Devon communities.

Cllr Andy Stokes advised that he will be attending a 'Save our Hospital Services Devon' conference in Barnstaple on 13th January 2018.

18/173. Urgent Items: None

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed Date.....