

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 14th February 2018 at 7:30pm

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

Press: No press in attendance.

In attendance: Stuart Barker and John Nutley (County and District) and 1 member of the public

Part I (Open to the Public)

18/174. Apologies: Cllrs Simon Rines, Dan Simpson, Neil Smith and Ron Fox. No apologies from Cllrs Pamela Forbes or Linus McCloskey were received.

18/175. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

18/176. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2018:

Signed and approved by Cllr. Pam Barrett

18/177. Questions raised by the Public: None

18/178. Reports from the Police, County and District Councillors:

The Police Report for January 2018 had been circulated to Members.

Cllr Janet Jones noted that, due to the funding cuts, it is disappointing not to receive a more comprehensive report.

The recent exchange of correspondence with the police concerning how the cuts have affected Buckfastleigh have now been published on the Council website.

Cllr Stuart Barker presented his report for Devon County Council (DCC). DCC has set a budget which will increase Council Tax by 4.99% for 2018/19. 2% of this increase will be specifically ring fenced for Adult Social Care provision. An additional £6.5 million has been allocated for improvements to drainage and potholes on minor roads.

Cllr Janet Jones questioned the criteria for fixing potholes and mentioned the problems in Fore Street where the pavements have not been deemed to be unsafe by DCC.

Cllr Stuart Barker: The original granite pavements will not be replaced with this type of paving stone.

Cllr Pam Barrett highlighted large pools of water which collect on Strode Road by the Orchard Millennium Green during periods of heavy rainfall which stretch across the centre of the road.

Cllr Stuart Barker: The stretch of the A38 adjacent to Buckfastleigh is made of porous material which reduces the spray from vehicles however, this causes rainwater drainage to be slower.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the HGV activity at Dart Mills Business Park. DCC is aware of the issues and use of floodlights during the night. They are awaiting the Enforcement Officer's visit and then may involve Environmental Health. The planning issue needs to be determined first before ecological issues are addressed such as the bat flight path in this area.

Cllr John Nutley presented a report on behalf of Teignbridge District Council (TDC).

Phil Shears has been appointed as Managing Director and Head of Paid Services for TDC. The CEO position no longer exists.

At the Overview and Scrutiny meeting Members were given presentations on Broadband and homelessness reduction

The Town Council have requested the policy criteria as to why some areas have no parking charges for 6 months of the year for residents and visitors for eg. Moretonhampstead, Widecombe and Torcross and other communities such as Buckfastleigh have charges all year. Cllr Nutley advised that TDC will review this for fairness and are aware that parking is seasonal. TDC will be looking at charging residents for all car parks all year round.

Cllr Pam Barrett pointed out that poor neighbourhoods are subsidising other car parks. What is the rationale for this?

Cllr John Nutley: The cost of changing the TDC parking meters twice was considerable at £18,000. A general increase of 10p in most off-street parking charges has been proposed to cover inflation and in particular, the higher rates from the revaluation which mainly falls on car parking. There will not be any increase to the majority of parking permits as these were increased substantially last year.

18/179. To receive the minutes of the non-quorate Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 16th January 2018:

Noted

18/180. To receive the minutes of Finance Committee held on 24th January 2018:

Minute No. 18/67 Application to the Community Development Fund for £1,500 by the Town Hall Cinema Club to purchase new and used audio visual equipment.

Decision: Resolved

Cllr Stuart Barker agreed to match fund.

18/181. To receive the minutes of Environment and Transport Committee held on 7th February 2018:

Noted

18/182. Town Council Projects update:

Cllr Andy Stokes: Revised quotes have now been received for the installation of the solar panels, together with plans for the alterations to the pool roof to accommodate the panels. Buildings must be in use during the day to benefit.

It was noted that the dog fouling campaign is now underway with the distribution of posters and information by the Town Ranger around the community and in areas of high footfall. Fluorescent spray is available from the Town Hall to dog walker volunteers to highlight the problem.

18/183. Review of Standing Orders:

Decision: Resolved to adopt the revised 2018 version.

18/184. To discuss planning for the “Heart of Buckfastleigh” event:

Cllrs Pam Barrett and Andy Stokes and Inga Page (Admin Assistant) have planned this event for Saturday 16th June to recognise and celebrate community volunteers. All voluntary and community groups are being invited to attend. There will be an information and networking session followed by a drop-in event with stalls, music, entertainment, food and awards. Categories of awards are: Long Service to the Community, Young Volunteer of the Year, Carer of the Year, Good Neighbour of the Year, Health and Fitness and Environmental Champions.

A panel will be invited to judge awards consisting of 2 councillors, the vicar, representatives of the Abbey and primary school, the PCSO and the Family Worker. Boxes for nominations will be placed around town (schools, post offices, churches etc.). Further information about the event and awards is going out to the groups shortly and the awards will be announced to the public at the end of March. It has not yet been decided who will present the award certificates.

Members broadly agreed to the plans.

Cllrs Mark Maish and Stuart Barker left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

18/185. Youth Activities update:

‘Hello Summer’ activities will return for the school summer holiday together with new sessions planned for Easter and the 2 half-term weeks. The project is growing and this year there will be a focus on outreach work, trips out and special needs. Term-time activities have also been organised which will include parkour and DJ workshop sessions. The timetable has yet to be finalised.

18/186. Buckfast Abbey Millennium Garden Fair and promotional flyer for visitors to Buckfastleigh.

Discussion deferred. The proposed flyer will be launched to coincide with Easter.

18/187. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects for 2018:

Covered under previous items.

18/188. Chair’s Announcements:

An application on behalf of Dartmoor Naturally Active has been submitted to the TDC Elector Fund by the Town Council.

A pilot project for cycling tours using the bike bus is being considered. The 16-seater minibus with bike trailer would be hired at £100-120 per trip. A charge would be made to users. The cost is £9.00-£10.00 per head but if subsidised by the Town Council would be around £5.00 per head. The target date for the first outing is Sunday 8th April, with one per month over 4 months and possibly continuing in September.

A suggestion has been made for the Town Council to fund a summer floral display for the Town Hall which was provisionally agreed subject to costs.

18/189. Clerk’s Announcements: None

18/190. Correspondence: None

18/191. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Andy Stokes has met with Naturally Healthy and attended a Devon Action demonstration concerning the future of Devon community hospitals. An integrated care system will be staged on 1st April for Devon.

Cllr Janet Jones attended a Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) meeting on 19th January which included a talk by the MP for West Devon, Hugo Squires. The CPRE are concerned about the proposed expansion of Exeter and agreed that the city should look to develop within their own boundary. The CPRE have commissioned a survey into housing needs for Devon and it was agreed that current development does not reflect actual need.

Cllr Janet Jones also attended a Friends of Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital meeting. Applications to fund health-related projects are being sought and it was suggested that a defibrillator for Buckfastleigh should be pursued.

Cllr Pam Barrett raised concerns regarding access to the funding that is left. What is the process to apply for this? How will it be managed to ensure it is fair to both communities? How will the funds be allocated?

Cllr Andy Stokes asked what the future of the hospital is as a well-being centre and it was confirmed that it is currently being used for clinics and training, but it's long-term future is not known. Cllr Stokes suggested that the hospital should be added to the TDC community assets register.

18/192. Urgent Items: None

Meeting went into Part II (Private)

18/193: To receive the Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 23rd January 2018.

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.25pm.

Signed Date.....