

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors: Pam Barrett (Chair), Janet Jones, Simon Rines, Andy Stokes, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Greg Porter, Dan Simpson and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: No representatives of the Press in attendance

In attendance: Councillors Stuart Barker (County and District) and John Nutley (District) and 5 members of the public.

Part I (Open to the Public)

18/05. Apologies: Cllrs Pamela Forbes, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey and Neil Smith

18/06. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

18/07. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018:

Signed and approved by Cllr. Pam Barrett

18/08. Questions raised by the Public:

Member of the public: *How much of the 2017/18 council tax increase has been spent in Buckfast?*

Cllr Pam Barrett advised that all of the following services funded or partially funded by the Town Council have been used by Buckfast residents: free Hello Summer activities, the Town Ranger service, the Citizens Advice outreach service, swimming pool, Air Ambulance and the Town Hall. Buckfast Village Hall was awarded a grant to support pedestrian safety/vehicle access improvements and many Buckfast residents attended the various festivals arranged and/or supported by the Council including the Christmas meal hosted by Buckfast Abbey.

18/09. Reports from the Police, County and District Councillors:

The Police report for March had been circulated to Members.

The public are aware that there is no police presence in the town and the Clerk had received an email from a resident to enquire if there has been an increase in reported crime as a result and what action the Town Council will be taking?

The Council has continued to lobby the police about this matter but, the response from the Chief Constable is that "Buckfastleigh is a low crime area." Community policing had been effective, but the Council is now concerned that the level of crime is increasing.

Action: Admin Assistant to collate statistics from the monthly police reports and circulate.

A member of the public asked about the CCTV.

The estimated cost to reinstate the CCTV in the centre of the town is approximately £40,000. The Council would need evidence of community support for the CCTV to be replaced together with the cost of installation, the technical and legal implications and future management and maintenance. Fundraisers are working on current projects for this financial year which are evidence based. It is not possible for the whole town to be covered by CCTV. Hotspots would need to be identified and agreed.

Cllr Stuart Barker: The CCTV was upgraded and positioned mainly to cover the pubs. A Business Improvement Fund may be possible, but it must have all businesses in agreement and would involve a 1% increase in business rates.

Cllr Simon Rines: Is it possible to obtain data as to which areas of Buckfastleigh are the worst affected by crime? Do the police break the data down in this way?

It was acknowledged that this is unlikely as all the parish is within the TQ11 postcode.

Cllr Pam Barrett said she is aware of escalating community issues, some of which are the result of a lack of police intervention.

Action: It was suggested that another letter is sent to the Chief Constable highlighting our increasing concerns. Cllr Greg Porter to draft.

Cllr Stuart Barker confirmed that this issue is constantly being raised at the Crime Commissioner meetings which he attends.

A member of the public left at 7.55 pm.

Report from Cllr Stuart Barker:

Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) – the Local Plan has not been signed off by Cllr Barker as a DNPA member. The final draft is still being drawn up. The Town Council has expressed concerns about proposed development in the parish and comments were given to this effect to the DNPA officers who attended an Environment and Transport meeting in November 2017.

Action: Clerk to send the Town Council's written response to the Local Plan to Cllr Barker for information.

Devon County Council (DCC) – The South Hams SAC Greater Horseshoe Bats consultation ends on 31st May.

700 potholes are being reported every day to the Highways authority. There is £4.5 million in the Winter Repair Fund plus an additional £6 million in the DCC budget to deal with this, but the high rainfall has been lifting the potholes. There will be a programme of re-surfacing this year and repairs to Fore Street have been scheduled into the work programme for 2018. DCC are aware of the trip hazard outside the tea rooms on Fore Street which has been made a priority repair.

Adult Social Care will be under-budget but the Children's Services budget is over-spent for 2017/18. Additional funds are being directed to mental health services.

Report from Cllr John Nutley:

Teignbridge District Council's development plan for 2018-23 is in the process of ongoing public consultation.

Car parking – the review group will be replaced by a new group to formulate a car parking plan which will look at charges, investment, customer experience and the primary function of each car park in the district. Cllr Nutley is to be a member of this new group. No public participation is permitted.

Cllr Barker said consultation and engagement processes are used by the authority but are not appropriate for this meeting.

Cllr Pam Barrett: It is good practice to have community participation and input.

Cllr Simon Rines: There seems to be some confusion regarding the notices provided by the District Council, for eg. the increase in parking charges.

18/10. Minutes of Finance Committee held on 28th March 2018: Noted

Cllr Andy Stokes requested feedback to the grants review discussion paper circulated to Members.

18/11. Minutes of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 3rd April 2018: Noted

Special mention was made of the filming of the Antiques Roadshow at Buckfast Abbey scheduled for 13th September 2018.

18/12. Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee held on 5th April 2018: Noted

18/13. Promotional tourism leaflet to coincide with the Buckfast Abbey 2018 Millennium celebrations update deferred from the Tourism Committee held on 3rd April 2018:

3 quotes have been received from local freelance designers to design a new promotional leaflet for the town. Quote 3 has been commissioned at £270 with a view to the leaflet published in May.

18/14. Proposal to screen “The Hound of the Baskervilles” at Holy Trinity Church update deferred from the Tourism Committee held on 3rd April 2018:

The proposal is to organise a film showing at Holy Trinity Church and link this to a railway trip with dinner included, but no response has been received to date from South Devon Railway. A significant number of volunteers would be needed to manage this event. Cllr Rines to pursue.

18/15. Town Council Projects update and to discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects for 2018: None

Cllr Andy Stokes: The solar panels contractor is no longer conducting business from the address provided. The Town Council will now look for a new contractor, but there is a need to proceed with caution due to the financial position.

18/16. Chair’s Announcements: None

18/17. Clerk’s Announcements: None

18/18. Correspondence:

The email from the member of the public referred to earlier in the meeting also raised the next steps for the implementation of the emergency plan. A meeting will be arranged in June for the key volunteers. It is hoped that the revised and updated emergency plan will be up and running by the autumn.

A thank you letter from Moorland Community Care in Buckfastleigh following receipt of £1,568 from the Elector Fund was noted. The Town Council supports this project as part of our well-being initiatives.

18/19. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllrs Andy Stokes and Janet Jones attended a DNP planning evening at the Parke.

Cllr Andy Stokes attended an Ashburton Town Council meeting.

It was agreed that Members from all parishes within the National Park boundary should be encouraged to attend DNP planning meetings to voice their views and concerns which meet on the first Friday of every month.

Cllrs Janet Jones and Huw Cox attended the Ashburton celebration of community groups.

Cllr Jones also attended a Buckfast Residents Group meeting and the Teignbridge Association of Local Councils meeting.

Cllr Simon Rines, Judith Hart and Inga Page attended a site visit with the consultants regarding the new Green Infrastructure Survey which will make the Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan more robust. There were lots of ideas including the proposal to create a town square or community focal point in the town centre and to have landscaping under the flyover between Old Totnes Road and the entrance to the railway. Funding may be available to develop some of these ideas.

Members of the public, Cllrs Barker and Nutley left the meeting.

18/20. Urgent Items:

Meeting went in to Part II (Private) to discuss and resolve an urgent item of commercial confidentiality raised by the Chair.

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.20pm.

Signed Date.....