

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Councillors Andy Stokes (Chair), Janet Jones, Pam Barrett, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

**In attendance:** Mary Sherwood of Dementia Friends and 10 members of the public.

**Press:** No Press in attendance

## **18/110. Dementia Awareness Session with Mary Sherwood of Dementia Friends**

Mary reported that the aim is to make the whole of Teignbridge dementia friendly. Dementia Friends is an Alzheimer's Society initiative and Mary explained that she is trained as a dementia friends champion and can provide free training to other groups.

This initiative wants to change the way we think, act and talk about dementia using the following five key messages:

- Dementia is not a natural part of ageing
- Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain
- Dementia is not just about losing your memory, it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks
- It is possible to live well with dementia
- There is more to a person than the dementia

Mary has also set up a dementia carers support group in Newton Abbot. Residents from Buckfastleigh are welcome to attend the monthly meeting.

4 members of the public remained after completion of this presentation.

**18/111. Apologies:** Cllrs Dan Simpson, Huw Cox, Simon Rines, Linus McCloskey and John Nutley (District).

**18/112. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**18/113. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018:**

Signed and approved by Councillor Andy Stokes

**18/114. Questions and comments from the public:** None

**18/115. Reports from Police, County and District Councillors:** No reports received

**18/116. Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018:**  
Noted

**18/117. Buckfastleigh Community Christmas Lunch:**

The Chair was pleased to report that Ben Cattrall has kindly agreed to coordinate the Christmas Day lunch which this year will be held in the Town Hall. More volunteers are still needed and a notice advertising this event will be put in the December news sheet.

### **18/118. Hello Summer 2018 report:**

Cllr Barrett summarised the report to the meeting and confirmed that it would be published on the Council website. The most popular event was the weekly bouncy castle session held in the Town Hall. It was noted that attendance appeared to drop during the last week of the school summer holidays which may be due to families taking a break before the return to school. It has been agreed that the Council will fund this initiative again for 2019 and are planning to carry out a house drop for the printed programme with timetabling of the events taking place earlier in the year. Most events were well attended and there was positive feedback from parents and carers. A wider age range was requested for the activities so pre-school children could participate. It is planned to include activities next year which could result in a finished project undertaken over a number of weeks e.g. metalwork. Organisers will also work with the family workers, food bank, school etc. to target more disadvantaged families. It was noted that the Town Council is also working with Young Devon.

Cllr Jones will research how Devon Carers could be involved with the project.

Cllr Stokes thanked Cllr Barrett, the staff and all involved with this programme.

### **18/119. Buckfastleigh Citizens Advice Outreach Service:**

Cllr Stokes explained that the expenditure of a few thousand pounds by the Town Council has resulted in over £180,000 being brought back into the community since the project began in December 2016 through successful benefit claims. This is an average financial gain of £5,500 per client. The Council would like to continue to support this service, but the outreach volunteer has moved out of the area although is still committed to providing the service. Citizens Advice has been unable to recruit another volunteer and training takes nine months to complete. The Town Council agreed to assist with publicity to find a volunteer. If no one comes forward, Members will look at the viability of funding an advisor, but this will have to be a full Council budget decision.

Cllr Pamela Forbes suggested the possibility of having a remote service using Skype. There are lots of different ways of accessing the service but there are problems with this such as the lack of public transport and the cost of travelling to Newton Abbot.

### **18/120. Town Council Projects update and to discuss planning, management and communications issues for projects for 2018:**

No further reports.

The Chair expressed the Council's thanks to David Patrick, the new Coordinator of the Volunteer Emergency Response Team, for his help with the recent Buckfast Road flooding incident.

### **18/121. Chair's Announcements:**

Cllr Andy Stokes reported that Ray Staines has been taken on permanently as the Town Ranger.

The Where Next? Community Workshop held in October produced various suggestions of projects which the Council could look at and possibly take forward subject to funding and resources which included a community fridge, a safe cycle path and better transport links.

At the recent Teignbridge CVS SOUP event held in the Town Hall, five local projects pitched for £700 in funding. This is not a formal grant process so is accessible to all and encourages community engagement. The community makes the decision as to who is successful. This initiative however, cannot rely on donations from generous benefactors so the Town Council would like to support this project in the future.

Cllr Stokes gave an update concerning the three Councillor vacancies and requested that Members meet to carry out informal interviews prior to ratification.

**Action:** The Chair called an Extraordinary Part II Meeting for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November from 6.30 to 7.30pm prior to the scheduled Finance Committee to facilitate informal interviews with applicants. At the end of the meeting the decision to co-opt successful applicants will be ratified and declarations signed in the presence of the Clerk arranged prior to the next meeting.

**18/122. Clerk's Announcements:** None

**18/123. Correspondence:**

Letter dated 06.11.18 - response from Stagecoach about the Falcon bus service was noted. Questions were raised as to when the reviews referred to take place, whether the Council can have input, why are there no plans to incorporate Buckfastleigh in the existing route and what evidence is there to prevent this? The Council believes there is demand for a Falcon bus stop in Buckfastleigh.

**Action:** Clerk to respond and refer to the Environment and Transport Committee.

**18/124. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:**

Cllr Andy Stokes gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. He is hopeful this will now progress quickly due to the involvement of Martin Parkes from Devon Communities Together.

Young Devon has been commissioned to carry out a consultation and produce a Youth Strategy for the Town Councils. Funding for this initiative will be met as previously agreed from the Awards for All grant.

Cllr Janet Jones has attended the Totnes Civic Service, Royal British Legion coffee morning, and the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital League of Friends meeting. It was noted that more representation from Buckfastleigh is needed at these meetings which seems to be Ashburton-focused.

**18/125. Items requiring urgent attention:**

Proposed development of Barn Park – a complaint has been sent to the planning authority by a resident regarding the delay in sending the planning application to the Town Council and that the documents cannot be opened on Android devices. To facilitate adequate consultation statutory consultees are given 21 days to respond which has not occurred on this occasion.

**Action:** Clerk to request an extension so that this application, when received, can be discussed at the next meeting

Cllr Stokes reported that shopkeepers are approaching the Council about a retail crisis in the town. The shops are struggling to survive and the proposal to move the Tuckers farmers market to Buckfast Abbey from Ashburton could exacerbate the situation, as it will result in the creation of an out of town retail development. A meeting has been arranged with a representative of the Abbey to discuss this further. The Council may look at hosting a public meeting as a result of this to provide feedback to the traders and examine ways of helping the situation.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.