

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Present: Councillors Janet Jones (Chair), Huw Cox, Pamela Forbes, Andy Stokes and Inga Page (Administrative Assistant).

In attendance: Cllr John Nutley and Tonya Short (Teignbridge District Council) and 1 member of the public

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

**18/55. Questions raised by the public:** None

**18/56. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Pam Barrett, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter and Judith Hart (Town Clerk). No apologies received from Cllrs Ron Fox and Mark Maish

### **18/57. Car parking discussion with representatives of Teignbridge District Council**

Cllr Janet Jones thanked Cllr John Nutley and Tonya Short for their attendance. She said the main issue identified by the parking working group set up by the Council was the lack of space for residents' parking. There are more double yellow lines restricting on-street parking and people who have bought car park permits are unable to find space in the car parks, particularly Station Road.

Tonya Short explained that anyone can buy a permit for the car parks, not just residents, so business owners are using them too. There is a 48-hour maximum stay except in the Globe car park which has a one-hour limit. Teignbridge District Council (TDC) manages car parks for the benefit of the town as a whole. A scheme for residents' parking on the streets would be managed by Devon County Council as they are responsible for highways. This is a long process (at least 2 years) and would not necessarily fix the problem as permits are issued for zones and residents could still come home and find there is no room to park in front of their house. Single yellow lines could help residents who go out to work as parking is then only allowed in the evening.

Cllr Janet Jones: Woodholme car park is under-used, and would it be possible to have free parking from 5.00pm rather than 6.00pm to facilitate residents returning from work who could then go straight into the car park rather than having to park on the street. It would also be good to have 20 minutes free parking allowed at the Globe car park to discourage people who are running a quick errand at the chemist or newsagent from parking in the disabled/loading bays on Fore Street.

Cllr Andy Stokes pointed out that in general the streets are too full of parked vehicles, but the car parks are not used to capacity, so strategies need to be found to encourage drivers to park in the car parks rather than on the streets.

Tonya Short explained that if they changed the start of free parking from 6.00pm to 5.00pm in one car park, there would be requests to do it in all in the district. This would cost about £156,000 in lost revenue. She asked if residents knew about the off-street, off-peak parking permit. This costs just £36.00 per year and entitles people to park between 9.00am and 10.00am and 4.00pm and 6.00 pm. It was acknowledged that no one was aware of this option.

**Action:** Tonya Short to send details of this permit and it will be publicised around the town.

In relation to the Globe car park, Tonya Short confirmed that TDC could look at the 20-minute free parking request but other towns would also want to have this, so a strong business case is needed to justify it. Cllr Pamela Forbes pointed out that Buckfastleigh is different from places like Dawlish as the car parks are mainly used by residents, not tourists. Tonya Short said she was not sure why the Globe car park is limited to one hour. It may make sense to have a wider tariff for eg. ½ hour, 1 hour or 2 hours. This car park is mainly used by locals as visitors find Woodholme car park first due to the one-way system.

**Action:** Tonya Short to propose free 20 minutes parking at the Globe car park and take it to the parking review group.

Cllr Nutley said he is currently undertaking a survey of users in the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh car parks to find out where people are coming from, the purpose of their visit, length of stay etc.

It was highlighted however that only surveying the car parks is not a representative sample of car owners in the towns.

It was suggested that the Mardle Way car park could be changed to short-stay and Woodholme to long-stay. Ashburton has divided its car parks into long-stay and short-stay to create more turnover of spaces for those who are not staying long. This could be done in Woodholme car park, but it was thought that Mardle Way is too small for such a scheme.

Cllr Andy Stokes asked about the possibility of the town taking over its car parks.

TDC would only consider handing over the free car parks at the Duckspound and Hamlyn's Field. Tonya Short emphasised that the costs of managing car parks are very high (legal, management, staff etc.) and only viable if spread over a large number of car parks. It would be prohibitive to have so many overheads for just 4 car parks.

Cllr Nutley and Tonya Short left the meeting.

**18/58. Declaration of Interests:** None

**18/59. To approve & sign as correct the Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

Signed and approved by Cllr Janet Jones

**18/60. Review of actions from previous meeting:**

Peter Sheldon has sent a hard copy of the documents relating to the plans for Strode Road. This will be referred to the Town Council meeting.

Letters have been sent to Devon County Council and Stagecoach concerning the cuts to the No. 88 bus service to Newton Abbot. The response received explains that the service reduction is not because of Council spending cuts but because the funding for this route has expired.

**18/61. Comments on planning applications received prior to this meeting and after Agenda set:**

The Chair summarised 2 recent planning applications which were noted: tree work to 2 Fullaford Park and a new dwelling at Bridge House, Old Totnes Road.

The Burrington Estates' outline planning application for 30 houses at the Holne Road site will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

A Development Brief for land to the rear of Timbers Road has been received. A presentation by the representative of the applicant will attend the next Town Council meeting.

**Action:** Admin Assistant to request a digital copy of the Development Brief in advance of the meeting

Cllr Andy Stokes clarified to the committee that unless a planning application is discussed at this committee or by full Council, no response should be sent. It is not appropriate for an individual councillor to comment on an application on behalf of the Council. Cllr Jones is checking each application that comes in and will flag up if it needs discussion by and a response from the Council.

**18/62. Amended Planning Application 0253/18 Proposed: Demolition of garages and erection of 3 dwellings and parking together with additional replacement parking on separate land parcel at land between 13-24 Glebelands and land adjacent to 53-56 Glebelands, Buckfastleigh – site visit update by the Chair**

Cllr Janet Jones reported that she had attended a site visit to Glebelands with representatives of the Dartmoor National Park Planning Committee and that Teign Housing appeared to be taking the concerns raised by the Town Council seriously. A decision is now awaited.

**18/63. Community Speedwatch update:**

Due to the lack of police capacity, a Community Speedwatch scheme cannot be undertaken in the town. It was agreed that an official response on behalf of the Town Council should be sent to the police, MP etc.

**Action:** Clerk to send a letter accordingly.

Cllr Jones will be taking the petition signed by residents to support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the town to Devon County Council on 4 October.

**18/64. Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan update and actions to take forward:**

Jo Rumble, Communities Officer at Dartmoor National Park has sent a list of issues which need addressing before the Neighbourhood Plan can go to referendum. Cllr Stokes has discussed this further with a local expert, Martin Parkes who has confirmed that a significant amount of work still needs to be undertaken to ensure that the document is robust, such as clearly linking the outcome of consultations with the conclusions, preparing a consultation statement and a conditions statement, fine-tuning and evidencing policies, conducting a confirmation exercise to bring the consultation up to date and possibly conducting a Habitat Regulations Assessment. It would easily be possible to turn the document into a Parish Plan which could be published and distributed around the town. Issues around the quarry and its inclusion (or not) in the plan could be discussed with Planning Aid who provide free advice.

**Action:** Meeting to be arranged with Martin Parkes and Cllrs Stokes, Jones, Rines and Barrett.

It was agreed that the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan, although it has taken a long time, has been a useful exercise and generated a lot of funding for the town.

**18/65. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:**

Already covered under the above items.

**18/66. Correspondence:**

Cllr Janet Jones has received an email from the Buckfastleigh and Scoriton Twinning Association to advise that the cost of adding a twinning reference to the TDC entrance signs is less than expected and have agreed to meet the costs themselves without requesting financial support from the Town Council.

**18/67. Items requiring urgent attention:** None

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm