

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Janet Jones (chaired the meeting), Pam Barrett, Ben Cattrall, Huw Cox, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Gwena Harman, Kate Paxman, Simon Rines, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: 4 members of the public.

Press: No Press in attendance

19/142. Apologies: Cllrs Andy Stokes and Dan Simpson. Cllrs John Nutley and Cllr Charlie Dennis (District)

19/143. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

19/144. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12th December:

Signed and approved by Councillor Janet Jones.

19/145. Questions and comments from the public: None

19/146. Reports from Police, County and District Councillors: No reports received.

19/147. Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee held on 2nd January 2019:

Noted. Teignbridge District Council have still not arranged a meeting to discuss parking.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to the Chief Executive to clarify why there is no response to the issues and suggestions raised by the Town Council and why is it taking such a long time to arrange a meeting?

19/148. Matters to approve from the Finance Committee:

- (i) Approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2018
- (ii) Budget Analysis Reports for November and December 2018
- (iii) Bank Payments Reports and Bank Statements November and December 2018
- (iv) Interim Internal Audit Report 2018/19

All items approved and signed by Cllr Barrett.

The Clerk highlighted the issues raised in the Interim Internal Audit Report including the written apology from the External Audit regarding the alleged error in the Annual Return for 2017/18. It was noted that the report was good, and the Clerk was thanked for her work.

19/149. Town Council Projects – to discuss the planning, management and communication issues for existing and new projects for 2019:

The Council is working in partnership with **Young Devon**. A drop-in consultation event will take place in the Town Hall on Tuesday 5th February from 6.00 to 8.00pm funded by the Awards 4 All grant. Feedback from the event will be used to establish what local youth organisations and

residents would like for a youth service in Buckfastleigh. The Council will then examine what is needed, the cost and what can be delivered.

‘Hello Summer’ – a planned programme of children’s activities funded by the Town Council will again take place during 2019. The Council is also working more closely with Buckfastleigh Primary School.

Buckfastleigh Citizens Advice Outreach Service – It is hoped that this will continue although the volunteer has moved out of the area. It will be difficult to recruit another volunteer and training will need to be undertaken before they can take up the post. A dedicated money advice service is an alternative, but this will be more expensive option.

Bike Bus – the Council is looking at a second summer of the Bike Bus initiative if there is adequate demand.

Community Cinema – Cllr Simon Rines was pleased to report that two new volunteers have been recruited to run the monthly cinema in the Town Hall. Cllr Rines would like the cinema to be a permanent installation, but more work is needed to achieve this. The next screening will be in March and then will continue monthly. Cllr Rines would like to facilitate children’s matinees too.

Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development meeting – Cllrs Cattrall and Barrett gave a summary of the meeting which included a discussion to create a sub-committee or working party to look at town events and facilitate a community equipment store and skills resource list. A monthly street market is being considered and a town branding campaign. It was agreed that improving coordination between the Lamb Pie Day and Christmas Market organisers and the Town Council is needed.

Buckfastleigh SOUP - following the success of the first event it has been agreed with Teignbridge CVS to hold another SOUP sometime in June.

Community Consultation – the annual participatory budgeting event for 2020/21 budget will take place in the summer.

Buckfastleigh Emergency Plan – the current focus is on upstream management to reduce flood risk in the town.

Community Bat Day – this will be organised by the Devon Wildlife Trust in April to promote the importance of the Buckfastleigh colonies.

Community Christmas Meal 2019 – volunteers will again be needed to coordinate this event.

Councillors were invited to suggest new projects but to consider the resources and time that would be needed to successfully deliver.

Cycle South Dartmoor – Kathryn Hughes provided an update. The group is working with Sustrans on a safe, signed cycle and walking path from South Dartmoor Community College in Ashburton to Buckfastleigh and on to South Brent. The project will establish the viability of the route and is seeking pre-planning advice from the National Park. There is also a suggestion to extend the route to the Steiner School at Dartington. A public consultation exercise will be carried out when all the facts are in place.

Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan – meeting to be re-scheduled.

19/150. Draft Review of the Town Council meeting structure:

The Clerk explained the draft proposals already circulated to Members for consideration to create a new meeting structure that would encourage greater participation and attendance. Following initial feedback, Option 3 to create three monthly committees was viewed as the most popular choice.

Decision: Cllr Pam Barrett proposed Option 3 for a trial period of 6 months with effect from 1st April 2019. Members voted unanimously in favour of this option. Clerk to organise.

19/151. Proposal to appoint an interim Town Hall management committee:

The Clerk and Cllr Barrett explained the current situation. It had been agreed by Members to set up an independent board of trustees as the Council is still the corporate trustee. Most trustee meetings incorporate the day to day operational matters which should be dealt with by a management committee. It is proposed that the trustee meetings are held quarterly and are attached to the scheduled management committee meetings.

Decision: Proposal to appoint an interim committee for 6 to 12 months comprising Cllrs Andy Stokes, Pam Barrett and Janet Jones and the Town Clerk, and advertise for members to join from the community if they have relevant skills. Members voted unanimously in favour of this proposal. The new committee will start after the February trustees meeting and will be advertised in the news sheet, website etc.

19/152. Town Council response to Dartmoor Local Plan – First Draft Consultation:

Cllr Andy Stokes had prepared a draft response which had been circulated to Members prior to this meeting. Keys points were highlighted and approved, and the final version will be published on the Town Council website and social media for information.

The Council thanked Cllr Stokes for his work on this comprehensive response.

Action: Clerk to submit to Dartmoor National Park Authority.

19/153. Chair's Announcements:

The Clerk read out Cllr Stokes' response to the pre-election Lib Dem leaflet that had recently been distributed to residents within the parish. Cllr John Nutley will be asked to substantiate his claims by a date set by the Clerk or make a public apology and retraction by the same means ie. a leaflet delivered to all homes in the parish. It was agreed that Cllr Nutley has made allegations without taking an official complaint to Teignbridge District Council or addressing his concerns directly to the Town Council.

It was suggested that Cllr Nutley should be welcomed to be more proactively involved in the Town Council's projects as he does not appear to be aware of what the Council has achieved despite attending Town Council meetings and receiving the minutes to these meetings.

It was agreed that there is a lack of communication and information as to how the District Council makes decisions with the suggestion to have "What is the role of the District Council?" as an agenda item at this meeting.

Decision: Clerk to send the Chair's response with an accompanying letter to Cllr Nutley as directed above. If no action is taken, the Town Council will pursue a Code of Conduct complaint.

The Chair requested a vote on this decision - Cllrs Jones, Barrett, Cattrall, Forbes, Fox, Harman, Paxman and Rines voted in favour with one abstention from Cllr Huw Cox.

When this matter has been satisfactorily resolved, the Council would be pleased to move forward and work proactively with Cllr Nutley for the benefit of the town.

19/154. Clerk's Announcements: None

19/155. Correspondence: None

19/156. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

An informal gathering at The Globe Inn will take place on Sunday 24th February at 4.00pm to provide advice and information to those who may be thinking about standing as a Town Councillor in the forthcoming election.

Cllr Janet Jones had attended the Buckfast Village Hall public meeting to discuss the proposal by Buckfast Abbey to build a care village and demolish the hall to enable access to the site. A second meeting will take place at a later date which will enable a vote on this matter to be taken by residents. The hall is not just for the benefit of Buckfast, it is for the benefit of the whole parish and the surrounding area. The management committee is looking at the legalities of the proposals before arranging the second meeting. They are hoping that the community would have access to the new facilities at a preferential rate.

Cllr Stokes and Jones had met with Amy Luxton, the Housing Enabling Officer at Teignbridge District Council to discuss the proposed new housing developments in the town in relation to the provision of affordable housing.

19/157. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Members of the public left at 9.10 pm and the meeting went into Part II (Private)

19/158. Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 22nd January 2019:

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.12 pm.