

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Cllr Stuart Barker (County and District); 3 members of the public and Ella Briens, Dartmoor National Park Ranger

Press: No Press in attendance

19/159. Apologies: Cllrs Pam Barrett, Kate Paxman, Ben Cattrall, Simon Rines and John Nutley (District).

No apologies received from Cllrs Gwena Harman and Huw Cox

19/160. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

19/161. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 30th January 2019:

Signed and approved by Councillor Andy Stokes

19/162. Questions and comments from the public: None

19/163. Reports from Police, County and District Councillors:

Cllr Stuart Barker – Devon County Council (DCC) Report:

- The precept for police funding will be increased by £24.00 for 2019/20
- Cabinet have voted to support a Climate Change policy which is likely to be approved by full Council. DCC are keen to pursue zero carbon policies such as the continuation of converting street lights to LEDs.
- Due to Government funding cuts, the DCC precept will be increased to support adult and children's services.

Teignbridge District Council (TDC) Report:

- TDC still retains the Council Tax reduction scheme, one of only a few Councils in the south west.
- TDC have agreed to increase the precept for the whole year by £5.00.

Ella Briens - Dartmoor National Park Ranger Report:

- The repair and improvement work to Buckfastleigh footpaths 6 and 7 has now been completed. Cllr Stokes conveyed the thanks of the Town Council and it was noted that there had been some very positive feedback.
- There is a new website where problems regarding public rights of way can be reported: <https://prow.dartmoor.gov.uk>
- The Rangers are currently working on public information campaigns regarding lambing, bird nesting, litter picking, and injured livestock. They are patrolling honeypot sites and working with the police on illegal off-road driving and wildlife crime.

- The Rangers continue to run Youth Ranger clubs for 5-12 year olds, 12-16 year olds and are now starting one for 16 years plus which could develop into apprenticeships.

Ella expressed her thanks to all the local volunteer wardens who support the Rangers.

Cllr John Nutley Teignbridge District Council report which was summarised by the Chair in his absence.

- It is proposed to increase parking and permit charges and freeze short-stay parking charges in Ashburton and Buckfastleigh.
- The annual charge for green bin garden waste collection will be increased by £5.00.
- Under the Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control it was agreed that up to six dogs can be walked on their leads rather than only four – this will be monitored.
- The recommendation to build a mixed development of 1500 homes as part of the Wolborough Masterplan was rejected and Cllr Nutley suggested it is likely that the developers will now go to appeal.

19/164. Minutes of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 29th January 2019:

Noted

19/165. Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee held on 6th February 2019:

Noted.

Cllr Stuart Barker reported that there will be changes to the parking regulations on the school side of Bossell Road and that DCC are looking at signage.

19/166. Town Council Projects – to discuss the planning, management and communication issues for existing and new projects for 2019:

No further updates.

19/167. Feedback from the Have Your Say! Consultation event:

About 30 people attended the event with some community members and some from local youth groups. All took part in a survey. Initial feedback has indicated that there are clearly issues between different groups and the feeling that people are not working together.

Specific points raised include: Girl Guides being identified as only for “well off” people; concerns about the Bungalow and children’s safety; outreach needed for out of town areas and young people that will not go to centres.

This work is still in its early stages, but there was good representation from youth groups in town.

19/168. Proposal to facilitate and fund the Bike Bus initiative for 2019:

Deferred to the March meeting.

19/169. Chair’s Announcements:

A joint bid was successfully made to the Communities Together Fund with Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Caring and the Chair was pleased to report that £5,000 was awarded. Cllr Barker advised that this fund will be administered by DCC in the future and communities can bid direct to DCC for varying amounts which will no longer be related to the number of electors. It

will be an annual fund totalling £475,000, but further details and submissions dates have yet to be agreed.

19/170. Clerk's Announcements: None

19/171. Correspondence: None

19/172. Reports from other meetings and working parties attended by Members:

Cllr Janet Jones had attended the Teignbridge District Council Civic Service at Bovey Tracey.

The Teignbridge Association of Local Councils was postponed due to the snow.

19/173. Items requiring urgent attention: None

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.