

BUCKFASTLEIGH MATTERS MEETING

Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 7.35 pm.

Present: Councillors Andy Stokes (Chair), Pam Barrett, Sue Clarke, Huw Cox, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Kate Kayley arrived at 8.15 pm

In attendance: 9 members of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

19/18. Apologies: Cllrs John Bailey, Darren Greep and Gwena Harman

19/19. Councillors invited to declare any interests: Cllr Phillips declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No.7) grant application for the Scoriton and Buckfastleigh Twinning Association

19/20. Questions and comments from the public:

John Goulding gave an update on Buckfast and Buckfastleigh in Bloom and was pleased to announce that the parish had been nominated for numerous awards. John was thanked for his continued work on this annual event.

John suggested that the Wildspace garden to the rear of the Town Hall could be an area for relaxation and meditation and rebranded as the 'Secret Garden', but it was noted that children do visit the garden when open.

Paul Roberts, a representative of the Christmas Fair committee would like the town to take greater ownership of this annual event now entering its 5th year. He asked the Town Council to adopt core costs and again underwrite a key attraction for e.g. a carousel or mini-gauge railway.

Action: Members agreed that further discussion regarding the request for financial assistance from Town Council could be addressed at the June Council Matters meeting.

19/21. Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters meeting held on 3rd April 2019:

Signed by Cllr Stokes.

Actions from this meeting:

- A second Traders Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 25th June in the Town Hall
- The new Town Guide is due for delivery on Monday 10th June
- The re-design of the visitor's information board at the entrance to South Devon Railway is ongoing and will be discussed further at the June Council Matters meeting.
- Cllr Pamela Forbes had previously raised concerns about the state of the Devonia site and was asked to seek clarification. Although the site is privately owned the owner still has a duty of care to keep it tidy with visible signs and notices. Matter to be reported to Teignbridge District Council.
- A Freedom of Information request was submitted to the South Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust by the Town Council which has not been responded to within the

statutory time limit. Directors of the Trust have however, offered to meet with representatives of the Town Council.

Decision: Cllrs Stokes, Clarke, Fox and Phillips were appointed to attend this meeting.

Action: Clerk to request a meeting but advise that the Trust must still respond to the Freedom of Information request as many of the documents requested should be readily available and in the public domain.

- Cllr Patrick was pleased to report that the Barn Park Emergency Fund has reached over £3,000 and some payments have been made to those who were affected. He thanked those who had donated to the fund. Cllr Stokes has also organised some counselling.
- Buckfastleigh Primary School – road safety concerns. **Action:** Clerk to raise this matter again with Cllr Stuart Barker.

19/22. Proposal to set up a community events working party:

Cllr Pam Barrett proposed that a working party is needed to coordinate event dates throughout the year with a town diary and a group of people who can provide support and advice to the organisations involved. The Council would work up an events strategy for the 2020/21 budget.

Decision: Members unanimously agreed to this proposal with Cllrs Barrett and Patrick appointed, Paul Roberts from the Christmas Fair committee and the Clerk to invite Cllr Greep.

Date of first meeting to be arranged and publicised with an invitation for volunteers to join.

Cllr Barrett has asked for a Teignbridge District Council (TDC) event pack.

19/23. Resident's request for assistance with the removal and disposal of plants and debris from the Stockabrook Leat adjacent to Plymouth Road.

It has been established that no one has accepted responsibility for the clearance and removal of plants and debris. It is assumed that TDC has water extraction rights as the owners of Woodholme car park, which was previously the site of a mill, but the history of the leat pre-dates Domesday. Members agreed that the Town Council cannot take responsibility for the clearance of the leat but is happy to give advice and support to the homeowners whose property borders this water course.

19/24. Proposal by the Scoriton and Buckfastleigh Twinning Association to adopt a Buckfastleigh Town Council owned red tele phone box and relocate to Fontaine-Henry, Normandy:

Decision: Proposal unanimously agreed by Members although the removal, repair and transport of the telephone box located next to Buckfast Village Hall would be the responsibility of the Association.

Cllr Sylvia Phillips abstained from voting due to a non-pecuniary interest in this matter.

19/25. Smaller Grant Applications:

Community groups and organisations may apply for a smaller grant to the Town Council on 4 occasions each year. This is the first grant round for 2019/20.

The following grants were agreed:

Buckfastleigh Kings Cricket Club - £250 – new scoreboard

The Friendship Group - £250 – social events and outings

Buckfastleigh Sharing - £250 – luncheon club

Scoriton and Buckfastleigh Twinning Association - £133.16 – new signage

Vintage Bus - £300 – to support the running and maintenance of the bus

Cllr Phillips abstained from voting for the Twinning Association application.

19/26. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest: planning application 0452/18 – to note new drainage strategy plan for proposed Holne Road development:

Cllr Stokes explained the change of approach to planning due to the Council's lack of influence over the decision-making process.

A new surface water drainage update for the proposed Holne Road development has been submitted to the planning authority by the developer which includes increased storage for drainage. Members agreed that the new plan will not alleviate the surface water problem.

Decision: Town Council to comment that the new plan is not enough to prevent risk of flooding. Cllr Patrick to note concerns for the Clerk to respond.

19/27. Appointment of Town Councillors to review planning applications and attend site visits as and when required:

Members can sign up to the Dartmoor National Park Authority planning notifications.

Cllrs Phillips, Forbes, Cox, Patrick and Fox volunteered to be on the review panel. The public are also encouraged to comment on planning applications as this can be more effective than a single comment from the Town Council.

Decision: The Planning Review Panel, in partnership with the Clerk, will check applications when received, carry out a site visit, publicise and report to the Council as and when required.

Decision: Cllrs Phillips and Forbes were nominated to attend meetings of the Dartmoor National Park Forum.

19/28. Domestic Planning Applications – 0207/19, 38 Fore Street and 0205/19, 14 Rangers Close:

38 Fore Street, Buckfastleigh – proposal to erect a first-floor balcony to the rear of the property - neutral view

14 Rangers Close, Buckfastleigh – proposal to replace an existing conservatory - neutral view

It was noted that a planning application for a new Premier Inn at Ashburton has been submitted and public opinion should be sought.

Action: Cllr Stokes to ask Ashburton Town Council how they will respond to this application.

19/29. Dartmoor National Park Authority proposal to produce a suite of walks between settlements within the Park:

Cllr Patrick suggested adding an optional loop to the proposed Buckfastleigh walk that includes Fore Street and can be linked to the Church Steps leading from Station Road. If the proposal is to join up Dartmoor communities, it is important that the town centre is included so that visitors can stop for refreshments, a meal and visit local attractions.

The heritage of Buckfastleigh should also be emphasised with the suggestion that informative literature could be provided for each walk.

Decision: Members support this initiative. Clerk to respond with above additions.

19/30. To consider and respond to the Environment Agency consultation: draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England and invitation to participate in the first River Dart Charter Workshop:

The draft strategy is a long-term plan and will fit with the purpose of the Buckfastleigh Climate Emergency and Emergency Plan groups.

Action: Cllr David Patrick to respond to the EA questionnaire after circulation to councillors and approval.

River Dart Charter Workshop – this is a workshop on how to manage the river and will be held on Saturday 15th June.

Action: Cllr Huw Cox to attend and Cllr Patrick to promote on social media.

A National Flood Management Day has also been organised for Sunday 14th July which will be a day of various activities commencing at the Town Hall, around the town and will include a picnic and a film in the Town Hall called “High Water – Common Ground”

19/31. Chair’s Announcements:

Following the declaration of a climate emergency the first Climate Emergency meeting has been held with a second meeting on Friday 28th June in the Town Hall.

Learn Devon have responded to confirm that they can provide English and Maths classes in Buckfastleigh for adult learning.

19/32. Councillors’ updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Sue Clarke introduced the meeting to Sound Communities, an organisation based in Torbay who provide a programme of radio and music production workshops working with schools, youth groups and education providers. It was suggested that they could be a useful link for the town’s youth activity programme.

Action: Admin Assistant to identify any slots in the Hello Summer programme or as a possible winter youth activity.

Cllr Huw Cox gave an update from TDC to confirm that Phase I funding has been agreed for the highway upgrades and new roads into Newton Abbot from Drumbridges.

A directional sign to encourage motorists to turn left and come into the town at the Dart Bridge roundabout has been erected by Devon Highways.

It has been noted that the Town Clock is not showing the correct time.

Action: Clerk to contact the maintenance contractor.

19/33. Items requiring urgent attention:

The Town Council has been contacted by residents expressing concern about the proposed sale of the garden and barns at The Valiant Soldier. The Chair explained that there has been some confusion over governance documents which require clarification. The original trustees included three Town Councillors, but no written evidence has been found as to how this changed to the current set of articles for the charity.

The Council is keen to support The Valiant Soldier and assist with the formulation of a business plan, with a strategy and vision for the future along with evidence of community support to apply for grant funding. It is an important asset which needs more publicity.

Actions: Cllr Patrick volunteered to help with promotion. Cllr Barrett offered to help with grant applications and Cllr Stokes suggested that the Clerk arranges a meeting between the trustees and representatives of the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.