

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2019.

Present: Councillors Janet Jones (Chair), Andy Stokes, Huw Cox, Ron Fox and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

In attendance: 2 members of the public

Part I (Open to the Public)

19/128. Questions raised by the public:

The Committee was asked about the procedure for requesting double yellow lines. The Chair explained that if approved by Devon County Council, a new Traffic Regulation Order would be needed which can be a lengthy process.

19/129. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Pam Barrett and Pamela Forbes.

No apologies were received from Cllrs Ben Cattrall and Kate Paxman

19/130. Declaration of Interests: None

19/131. To approve & sign as correct the Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 2019.

Signed by Cllr Janet Jones

19/132. Review of actions from previous meeting:

Speed limit – No further information has been received from Devon County Council (DCC) regarding the proposed 20mph speed limit for the town.

Drainage – Action: Clerk to request an update from the Town Ranger regarding the drainage problem at Crest Hill following his report to South West Water.

19/133. Comments on planning applications received prior to this meeting and after Agenda set:

0087/19 Proposed: Construction of detached garage at 5 St. Bernards Close, Buckfast

Members noted the objection from the neighbour of this property regarding the size and position of the proposed garage and would hope that the planning authority takes this into consideration when reaching a decision.

19/134. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development:

No new applications received or further information relating to current applications.

19/135. To discuss the traffic and parking safety issues raised by Buckfastleigh Primary School and feedback from the site visit held on 25th February 2019 attended by representatives of the Town Council and School:

Following the site visit it is clear that there are significant issues regarding pedestrian and road safety during school drop-off and collection times. Free short-term parking permits are provided to parents using the Woodholme car park, but there is no safe route from the car park to the school for parents, children and pushchairs due to the lack of pavement at the entrance to Bossell Road from Plymouth Road.

It was noted that there are no school warning signs or flashing yellow lights to make drivers aware that they are approaching a school. Members agreed that signs are needed at either end of Bossell Road and New Road.

To reach the Bossell Road entrance to the school parents and children must cross the road on a bend and their line of sight is blocked by the parked cars outside of the Town Hall.

Suggestions include:

- remove the last parking bay on Bossell Road and provide temporary parking in front of the Town Hall for school drop-off only.
- remove all the parking bays outside the Town Hall (although this may encourage drivers to drive quicker) to prevent crossing between parked cars or to place a no parking time restriction eg. no parking between 8.30 and 9.00am.
- to employ a lollipop person to assist children to cross the road

Councillor Stuart Barker (DCC) has suggested that the school needs to review its traffic management plan and has confirmed that the DCC Safety Officer for the area will be contacting the school to discuss the issues raised and possible solutions.

Actions: Cllr Janet Jones to request a copy of the school traffic management plan for information. Clerk to ask for Town Councillor representation at the meeting between the DCC officer and the school.

Members noted the response from Cllr Barker which referred to the one-way system through the town centre and that the school and Fire Service had supported this proposal during the original consultation.

It was agreed that if the suggestion to reverse the one-way system was re-visited it would require a professional and detailed traffic analysis.

Members agreed that parents also need to take responsibility, but the number of vehicles in the town is increasing and cars should not come before for the safety of children.

19/136. Request to the Town Council to support the Dark Sky bid for Dartmoor National Park:

The Chair read out the proposal initiated by the North Bovey Conservation Group to apply to the International Dark-sky association for Dartmoor to be considered for Dark Sky Park status.

Decision: Agreed to support, Clerk to send a letter to this effect.

19/137. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:

Review of parking – Members expressed disappointment that there has been no further response or progress from Teignbridge District Council regarding the matters raised.

Solar Panels at the Town Hall – Cllr Andy Stokes to re-visit this initiative for installation at the Town Hall.

19/138. Correspondence: None

19/139. Items requiring urgent attention:

Cllr Stokes has met with Cllr Gwena Harman and one other representative to draft a climate emergency motion in support of other local councils around the country. There is a consensus that

the Government is not taking adequate action to address the very serious and urgent issues which are affecting all our lives and future.

Action: Draft motion to be presented at the March full Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pms