

BUCKFASTLEIGH MATTERS MEETING

Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 4th September 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Pam Barrett (Chair), John Bailey Huw Cox, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Darren Greep, Gwena Harman, Kate Kayley, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: Cllr Sarah Parker-Kahn, 4 members of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

19/46. Apologies: Cllrs Andy Stokes and Sue Clarke

19/47. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

19/48. Questions and comments from the public:

Mark Jeffreys gave an introduction to 'Share Shed' from Totnes which will be coming to Buckfastleigh once a week with a library of 350 things that can be borrowed, e.g. camping equipment and a wide variety of tools. On Tuesday 24th September there is an evening event at the Town Hall to explain how the initiative works and to promote membership. The group also has a wish list of things which they would like to acquire with full details on their website: www.shareshed.org.uk

19/49. Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters meeting held on 3rd July 2019 and review of actions:

Signed by Cllr Barrett

Actions from this meeting:

- The Clerk has sent a letter to all Devon County Councillors highlighting the objection of the Town Council to the proposed closure of Ashburton Fire Station
- A meeting of the Wildspace group has been organised for Thursday 5th September to discuss plans for the garden
- Documents requested by the Town Council from the South Dartmoor Academy were received prior to the July Council Matters and representatives of the Trust have since met with Members of the Town Council.

19/50. Smaller Grant Applications and summary of grant payments to date:

4 applications were received for the second grant round for 2019/20 and were unanimously agreed as follows:

The Friendship Group - £250 – social events and outings

1st Buckfastleigh Scout Group - £500 - setting up costs

Participate Arts - All Sing Sunday - £250 – room hire and choir leader fees

Buckfastleigh Wool Gathering - £400 - it was suggested that a member of the Council or the public could work with the applicant to grow this activity. Maureen Tuffnell volunteered to meet with the applicant to look at guided tours of the areas of the town associated with the woollen history and other initiatives. Clerk to liaise to this effect.

19/51. Planning Application 0369/19: Conversion of agricultural barn to ancillary accommodation at Rock Cottage, 56-57 Jordan Street:

Cllrs Phillips and Forbes carried out a site visit. The barn is dilapidated so development would be an improvement.

Decision: Neutral view

Cllrs Barrett, Cox and Fox had also visited the agricultural building to the rear of St. Mary's School, Buckfast regarding planning application 0360/19 submitted by Buckfast Abbey. It was noted that no bats are currently residing in this building and the work proposed may encourage occupation by pipistrelle bats.

Decision: No objection

19/52. Proposal to dispose of solar panels by sale or donation:

This initiative was originally set up by the Town Council to provide free second-hand solar panels to public buildings, but it has been established that there are no suitable sites other than the Town Hall and the Football Club. Due to a change in the regulations, the need for planning permission in some instances, the withdrawal of National Grid subsidies and installers not wanting to install second-hand panels other options should be explored.

The panels which are currently in storage are still at least 95% efficient and of good quality.

Decision: Members agreed in principle to dispose and sell as 'sold as seen' at price to be determined to local and community organisations first.

Cllr Parker-Khan will take this to Ashburton Town Council for possible use on their Town Hall.

19/53. Teignbridge District Council Electric Vehicle Charging Consultation:

A consultation is taking place about installing charging points in public car parks and new-build developments, as well as acquiring electric vehicles for use by the District Council. There are no accessible charging points on the A38 between Lee Mill Tesco and Dartington. There is however, more than one type which will reduce the number of spaces in the car parks. Parking is already limited in the town, so Members agreed that the only viable car park is Victoria Woodholme. Other suggested sites included the Football Club, garage and South Devon Railway.

It was noted that the consultation focuses on mainly the towns such as Newton Abbot and there is a need to share resources. If charging points are not installed along the A38 corridor there is little point to this consultation. It takes approximately 40 minutes to charge a vehicle which would bring visitors and income into the town.

Action: Clerk to respond and suggest the use of Woodholme car park for at least 2 charging points; refer to the proximity of the car park to the A38; and that this would encourage greater footfall in the town. Members request that TDC consults with the Town Council regarding locations.

19/54. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Barrett reported on the training programme in chairing and meeting facilitation that has been organised in October. Places are limited and any vacancies will be open to other organisations.

Other dates to note:

- Thursday 12th September at 6.30pm in the Town Hall - 'Life on the Verge' – meeting about formulating an open spaces management strategy for Buckfastleigh.
- Thursday 19th September 4.00 – 7.00pm – Dartmoor Local Plan – final chance to have your say.

19/55. Councillors' updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Cox – Apple Day will be held on Sunday 13th October at the Orchard Millennium Green.

19/56. Items requiring urgent attention: None

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.