

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Andy Stokes, John Bailey, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Kate Kayley, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

No apologies received from Cllr Gwena Harman.

In attendance: Cllr Sarah Parker-Khan (Teignbridge District Council) and 1 member of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

19/84. Apologies: Cllrs Pam Barrett, David Patrick, Huw Cox, Sue Clarke and Darren Greep

19/85. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

19/86. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25th September 2019 and review of actions from this meeting:

Signed by Cllr Andy Stokes

Actions from this meeting:

- Requirement to change the Town Council's online banking provider – pending
- Objection to the removal of the Teignbridge District Council (TDC) can recycling bank at Victoria Woodholme car park raised by Cllr Huw Cox. TDC have confirmed that this facility was removed in 2016 and that there are no plans to reinstate due to lack of use. Matter to be referred back to Cllr Cox.

19/87. Questions and comments from the public: None

19/88. Questions to District and County Councillors: None

19/89. To resolve recommendations from the Buckfastleigh Matters meeting held on 2nd October 2019:

19/66. Items requiring urgent attention – Christmas Fair carousel.

Cllr Stokes proposed underwriting £1,000 for the carousel under the same terms as the 2018 Christmas skate rink. Supported unanimously by all Members present

19/90. Town Council response to Dartmoor Local Plan: Final Draft Consultation:

Members agreed that the Council's original response to the first draft consultation has not received any response to the questions raised and there is no acknowledgement or reference to it in the final draft.

There is no explanation as to why affordable and social housing provision has been dropped from 50% to 45%. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPF), a major development is defined as greater than 10 dwellings and yet Dartmoor National Park Authority have disregarded this and implemented their own interpretation of this. The NPF also states that no major development should take place in National Parks – what justification does DNPA have to redefine this?

Action: Clerk to resend the original response as the stance of the Town Council has not changed together with amended details for the Buckfastleigh Settlement Profile.

19/91. Proposal for a formal or informal partnership between the Town Council and Be Buckfastleigh to formulate a strategy for the management of open spaces and wildlife habitat within the parish.

There is some overlap between the work of the Town Council and Be Buckfastleigh. Members agreed that it would be helpful to look at communication, a regular review and how the two organisations can support each other.

Be Buckfastleigh was set up separately to the Town Council with an independent source of funding from The Active Well-Being Society. It is a pilot project, but it would be helpful to issue a statement of intent and clarification.

The Town Council considers it to be a valuable new resource and encourages residents to find out more.

Action: Item deferred for further discussion.

19/92. Hello Summer 2019 Report:

A report summarising the activities, costs and number of children in attendance was circulated and discussed by Councillors.

Cllr Stokes explained that the Town Council had agreed a budget to fund the Hello Summer programme for 2019, but Cllr Barrett, on behalf of Victoria Park, successfully secured a Children in Need grant over three years to fund activities. This reduced the need for the Town Council to solely fund this project and has provided the opportunity to extend the programme to include autumn, winter and spring activities.

Action: Members requested more details concerning age groups and the number of children attending the most popular sessions.

19/93. Proposal to adopt the management of three community defibrillators installed by the Devon and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service in Buckfastleigh and assist with the organisation of training:

The defibrillators are installed at the Football Club, Glebelands and Grange Road, Buckfast and are managed by members of Buckfastleigh Fire Station who have asked the Town Council to adopt them.

Members agreed that the actual arrangement and estimated costs needs to be clarified with the Fire Service before this proposal can be considered further.

It was proposed that the Fire Service continues to manage the 3 defibrillators with the Town Council meeting the maintenance and replacement costs. Cllr Bailey also suggested sponsorship to assist with this e.g. Football Club.

Actions: Clerk to contact the Fire Service to request further information and draw up a draft agreement to include the following points:

- 1) A proposal that the Town Council either meets the costs of maintenance by awarding a perennial grant to the Fire Service or alternatively purchase consumables direct from the supplier.

- 2) The Fire Service to oversee day to day management of all 4 defibrillators including the equipment located in Chapel Street opposite the Coop.
- 3) The Fire Service to provide community defibrillator training with the support of the Town Council which could be facilitated at the Town Hall and the Football Club.

19/94. Review as an interim arrangement the day to day management of Town Hall staff:

Currently Cllr Pam Barrett is the Line Manager for the Town Hall staff, but due to other commitments she is not always available to oversee day to day management. It is proposed that the Town Clerk is appointed the Deputy Line Manager as she already manages the Town Council staff, is familiar with the working practices of the Town Hall and what issues can arise. There are no cost implications to this appointment.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr Andy Stokes with all Members in agreement.

19/95. Chair's Announcements:

The Town Council Community Consultation Workshop will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 30th October to discuss new and existing project proposals such as mental health, older people, young people, sports and fitness, business and tourism etc.

Following the successful completion of the Clerk's qualification the Town Council will have the General Power of Competence (GPC) with effect from the November Town Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to provide further information about the GPC to Councillors.

19/96. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Cllr John Bailey: The tennis courts are in a poor state of repair and management of this area is an issue. The town would benefit from an all-weather pitch and the tennis court is the ideal location for this.

The Twinning Association have agreed to look at the condition of the boules pitch which has also fallen into disrepair.

Cllr Stokes: Lottery Funds do not cover the cost of court replacement or resurfacing which is estimated to be in the region of £20,000.

Teignbridge District Council have in the past proposed transfer of all green spaces in the parish to the Town Council but will not transfer individual parcels. The Council would need to look at the cost implications, carry out a land survey, examine current lease arrangements and seek community support to consider this proposal further.

Action: Cllrs Stokes, Greep, Bailey and Fox to meet to discuss further.

19/97. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.