

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

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

**In attendance:** 6 members of the public

**Press:** No Press in attendance

**19/57. Apologies:** Cllrs Kate Kayley and Darren Greep.

No apologies received from Cllr Gwena Harman.

**19/58. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**19/59. Questions and comments from the public:**

Maureen Tuffnell thanked the Town Council for the new E-noticeboard in 'The Living Room.'

**19/60. Minutes of the Council Matters Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and review of actions from this meeting:**

No outstanding actions.

Signed by Cllr Andy Stokes.

**19/61. Budget Analysis Reports 01.09.19 – 30.09.19:** Noted.

**19/62. Bank Payments Reports and Bank Statements 01.09.19 – 30.09.19:** Noted

**19/63. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation Report:** Noted

**19/64. Amended plan for the erection of 28 dwellings (10 affordable and 18 open market), estate road, 50 parking spaces and garden areas at land west of Barn Park, Buckfastleigh:**

Draft notes circulated by Cllr Patrick were read out to the meeting.

A member of the public raised the issue of underground springs flooding some gardens in Barn Park and it was agreed to include 69 Barn Park as an example of this.

Cllr Barrett: Specific reference needs to be made to the river Mardle and downstream run-off which accelerates when the river spikes, incidents of which are becoming more frequent.

It has been confirmed that South West Water will manage the surface water storage tanks, but no specific details have been provided concerning management, how often will the tanks be emptied and the length of contract?

The following issues were also raised by members of the public:

- The plans do not provide an adequate turning space for larger vehicles such as fire engines or rubbish lorries;
- Concerns re access, an increased risk of flooding and the surface water run-off on Merrifield Road;

- There is an expectation that climate change will increase rainfall and therefore flooding.

Cllr Clarke: If this plan is approved and properties flood without adequate mitigation in place, is there any recourse for existing properties?

Member of the public: *What happens to the original opposition and objections to this development? Can existing infrastructure support new housing in the town?*

Cllr Stokes: Government targets for new housing are twice what is recommended by the Office of National Statistics.

Cllr Barrett highlighted the need to lobby the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) Members.

A member of the public suggested inviting DNPA members to meet in the Town Hall to listen to the objections of residents.

It was agreed that the Town Council response should be sent directly to all DNPA Members.

Member of the public: *The plans indicate that a corridor will be created by a new fence behind existing properties which may encourage anti-social behaviour.*

The Clerk confirmed that the Council deadline for a response has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

As a statutory consultee there is no requirement for the planning authority to respond direct to the Town Council.

Residents are encouraged to contact DNPA members themselves and invite them to meet. Cllr Barrett offered use of Town Hall and that the meeting could include some of the Town Council Members.

Any further comments and objections to include in the Town Council response should be sent to the Clerk within 7 days.

**Action:** Clerk to send copies of both the first and second Town Council responses to the DNPA Members. Residents to invite Members of the planning authority and the Town Council to facilitate a public meeting. Cllr Patrick to draft a second version of the response and public to add any comments for the final submission.

It was noted that the housing design and layout has been changed.

Cllr Phillips suggested that a s106 payment is used for flood alleviation measures and to benefit the Barn Park area.

A Member of the public raised concerns regarding the longevity of mitigation measures.

This application must be brought to the attention of both Barn Park and Jordan Street residents and it was agreed that the Residents' Association could do this using a leaflet drop to each household.

It was also suggested that residents attend the planning meeting at the Parke when the application is discussed.

**19/65. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:**

No updates.

**19/66. Items requiring Urgent Attention:**

The Town Council annual review and planning workshop takes place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

The launch event for 'Be Buckfastleigh' is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 12-4.00 pm in the Living Room.

The Be Wild meeting is at 6.45pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at the Town Hall.

The Wool Gathering and Orchard Millennium Green Apple Day will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.