

BUCKFASTLEIGH MATTERS MEETING

Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Sue Clarke (Chair), Pam Barrett, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Darren Greep, Gwena Harman, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: 4 members of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

20/102. Apologies: Cllrs Kate Kayley, Andy Stokes and John Bailey

Cllr Pamela Forbes did not attend.

20/103. Councillors invited to declare any interests:

The following Councillors declared a controlling interest as trustees and/or committee members and abstained from voting for the following organisations which have submitted grant applications under Agenda Item No. 4:

- Cllr Huw Cox – Orchard Millennium Green Trust
- Cllrs Darren Greep and Sue Clarke – Buckfastleigh Sports Club
- Cllr Pam Barrett – Be Wild
- Cllr Sue Clarke – Buckfastleigh Scouts Group

20/104. Questions and comments from the public:

A member of the public asked for an update on the repairs to Fore Street. The Clerk advised that the contractor had confirmed that the work which they were contracted to carry out had been completed.

Action: Town Ranger to carry out a site visit to identify and report all outstanding work such as broken and raised paving slabs and kerbstones.

Maggie Bennett, Chair of the Valiant Soldier Heritage Centre gave a short report to the meeting:

The Town Council has funded a consultant who has been helped formulate a vision statement for the Valiant Soldier which has been very helpful. The trustees have agreed to enhance the museum and archive, encourage community participation, support and develop activities, and look to the future and sustainability of the centre. The trustees are also looking at the development of the barns and gardens for the benefit of the community and as a facility which will generate income.

The governance and legal documents are nearing a satisfactory completion. They are addressing issues in the garden including clearance and grant funding has enabled external repairs and redecoration.

The trustees would welcome suggestions for the development of the barns and garden and will be visiting Devonport Guildhall later in the month to look at ideas.

Maggie thanked the Town Council for its support.

Action: Cllrs Greep and Barrett would like to arrange a site visit to look at the barns. Clerk to forward Maggie's email.

A member of the public is seeking work experience regarding grant applications and accountancy. It was suggested to meet with the Sports Club committee.

Action: Clerk to forward details to Cllrs Clarke and Greep.

20/105. Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters meeting held on 8th January 2020 and review of actions:

Noted and signed by Cllr Sue Clarke.

20/106. Smaller Grant Applications:

The following organisations were awarded grants:

Buckfastleigh Food Bank	£500 health and well-being course
Buckfastleigh Chamber of Trade	£500 annual display of Christmas lights in the town centre
The Friendship Group	£250 days trips and meals out
Wigram Community Association	£500 publication of the community news sheet
Be Wild	£500 Community Wildlife Group events
Buckfastleigh Sports Club	£500 improvements and renovation of the club
Orchard Millennium Green Trust	£500 2020 Fun Day
The Good Old Days	£500 Reminiscence Group
Friends of Buckfastleigh School	£500 renovation of garden space
All Sing Sunday	£250 Community Singing workshops
Window Wanderland	£500 Community event
Buckfastleigh Scouts Group	£500 resources and training

20/107. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest – planning application 0251/19: Erection of part two and part three storey 80-bedroom hotel with associated parking, landscaping and access at land at Dolbeare Park, Eastern Road, Ashburton – amended application.

It is understood that Ashburton Town Council believe this amended application is worse than the original design submitted and that the proposed development will not be of any benefit to the local community or economy.

Cllr Clarke: The design is not aesthetically pleasing. There is already bed and breakfast accommodation in the town and Premier Inns are generally used more by people on business than visitors. The proposed development will impact an already overstretched infrastructure including increased traffic, demands on the sewage treatment works and guests are unlikely to visit the town, so it will be of no benefit to Ashburton or Buckfastleigh.

Decision: Cllrs Cox and Patrick proposed that Members support the objections raised by Ashburton Town Council. All Councillors voted in favour of supporting Ashburton Town Council's position. Clerk to respond to this effect.

20/108. Chair's Announcements: None

20/109. Councillors' updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Barrett: The "Buckfast chasm" has been repaired but not the surrounding potholes. The drainage issue has also not been addressed.

Members agreed to highlight further significant potholes, e.g. Wallaford Road.

Cllr Patrick reported that the river level monitoring gauge (FROG) has been repaired.

Cllr Clarke: The Heart of Buckfastleigh and SOUP event held on Friday 24th January was well supported with a good spread and community atmosphere. Five bids were made for the SOUP donations from local groups all of which received a percentage of the total £1,359 raised.

Cllrs Phillips and Cox attended the Teignbridge Association of Local Councils meeting. There were presentations on the Teignbridge District Council (TDC) budget and climate change. A new Climate Change officer is being appointed.

Cllr Cox: The TDC Local Plan review is due for consultation in March.

Cllr Greep raised the issue of the refurbishment and management of the tennis courts. It was agreed to set up a committee which includes Cllrs Greep, Bailey, Barrett and Clarke with representatives from the scouts and sports clubs.

Action: Cllr Greep to arrange a meeting.

It was noted that Cllr Cox will be registered with Devon County Council to be a volunteer Road Warden.

20/110. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

20/111. Summary of Key Messages:

- A total of £6,000 awarded in Smaller Grants
- Support Ashburton Town Council's objection to the amended planning application for the proposed new Premier Inn at Dolbeare Business Park
- Buckfast Chasm – the repair work was carried out within two days of being highlighted by the Town Council and generated 208,000 views on social media
- The FROG river gauge is fixed

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.