

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Tourism & Recreation Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Huw Cox (Chair), Susan Clarke, Caroline Bach-Price, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: Maureen Tuffnell (Orchard Millennium Green), Paul Roberts (Christmas Fair) and Gordon Searle (Searles Electrical)

22/16. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Kathy Taylor, Leigh Walker-Haworth and Sylvee Phillips, Wendy Hall (Buckfast Abbey), Sheila Phillips (Pengelly Caves), Alasdair Page (South Devon Railway), John Bailey (Football Club), David Field (Otters and Butterflies) and Refurnish

22/17. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

22/18. To approve and sign the minutes from the Tourism and Recreation Meeting held on 10th August 2022: Signed by Cllr Cox

22/19. Questions and comments from the public: No public present

22/20. Comments from local visitor attractions, businesses, and organisations.

Paul Roberts: The Christmas Fair will take place on 7th December between 4 and 7.30 pm. It will feature a balloonist, stilt walkers, a crooner of seasonal songs, a dancer, Victorian carousel, musicians, live street auction, Santa's Grotto, and approximately 40 stalls. Cathy at Brainwave is taking bookings for stalls. There will be carols on the church steps plus a possible school procession. Suggestion that Cllr Clarke helps with the auction. The fair attracts an estimated footfall of 1,000.

Maureen Tuffnell: On 30th October, the Orchard Millennium Green (OMG) will host a tabletop sale in the morning and apple pressing in the afternoon together with the last tea on the green. There will be a two-day Fun Day in summer 2023.

Cllr Cox: There has been an improvement in the anti-social behaviour and litter problem at the Millennium Green which cannot have its own rubbish bins due to the cost to pay Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to empty them. There is 1 bin at the bridge entrance. The OMG does have CCTV but this is not publicised. It is not just a police matter but a community matter.

Gordon Searle: There has been positive feedback about the new Town Clock. He is disappointed that the Post Office is leaving due to the forthcoming closure of Huccabys.

Cllr Cox said there is an ongoing discussion with the Post Office and they are looking at options for a mobile or permanent facility in the town. The postmistress of Buckfast Post Office is also retiring. Various levels of funding are available.

22/21. The future of Buckfastleigh Town Centre businesses.

It was noted that an invitation to this meeting had been hand delivered to all the retailers in Fore Street, Plymouth Road and Chapel Street, but had generated little response or interest.

The industrial areas in Buckfastleigh are generally successful in attracting new businesses. Retail however is under threat and traders feel it is down to the problem with parking and that 30 minutes free parking would help with this. Other towns have the same problem too. The Parking Review Group at TDC will look at rural town parking issues.

Gordon Searle: Parking charges should be included on the TDC website. The Globe car park is underused because visitors are not aware of how it is accessed. Mardle Way car park is well used due to its location to the Coop. Buckfast Post Office also has free parking. Customer services such as a dentist and chiropodist encourage footfall more than retail but bring customers into a town.

Cllr Clarke: A community energy group which has already had success in South Brent is looking for farmland for a solar array but this cannot be within the national park so land is sought on the south side of Strode Road.

22/22. Planning, management, and communications issues for projects within the remit of this committee.

Queen Elizabeth II Funeral – thanks to Cllr Clarke for arranging flowers and reading the proclamation for the new King.

Buckfastleigh Green Fair – thanks were conveyed to Judith for organising such a successful event.

King Charles III Coronation will be held on Saturday 6th May 2023 – it was agreed that a commemorative event should be organised.

A new Chief Inspector of Police is now in post. It was suggested to have a combined meeting with both Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Town Councils.

The policy surgery will be returning to the Town Hall shortly, possibly at the same time as the Citizens Advice outreach session on Friday mornings. PCSOs cover a very large area but want to work with both towns.

22/23. Options for publicising community events.

Problems with publicity – no matter where and how events are advertised, people still are unaware of them. Suggestion for a town crier.

The new Warm Spaces initiatives is starting in November in the Town Hall with free refreshments, games, and crafts.

22/24. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Next meeting Wednesday 30th November at 7.00pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.55 pm.