

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Meeting held on 3rd August 2016.

Present: Councillors Janet Jones (Chair), Pam Barrett, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Greg Porter, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

In attendance: Kathryn Hughes (Buckfastleigh Community Forum)

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/48. Questions raised by the public:

Kathryn Hughes: *What progress has been made regarding the car parking survey undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan? The presence of the Environment Agency in Station Road car park has highlighted the difficulties with parking in the town.*

The Clerk: An update has been requested from the District Council regarding the on-street parking arrangement for residents with a parking permit for the Station Road car park for the duration of the flood works. The signage has however, been removed before the work has been completed.

Cllr Pamela Barrett: The Council is organising a parking group working party and would like to look at the management of all parking in Buckfastleigh. There is also a problem with identifying land for further provision.

Cllr Greg Porter: Other organisations with parking spaces within the town could be approached.

Action: Clerk to organise a working party in the early autumn to include Cllrs Simon Rines, Pamela Forbes and Greg Porter, some members of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group and local residents who have expressed an interest.

Other suggestions included the “use my drive” initiative and a residents permit parking at the Devonia site which has been used as a park and ride facility for South Devon Railway events.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to Devonia to this effect.

Cllr Pam Barrett: The District Council control of car parks also needs to be examined as a separate issue.

Kathryn Hughes: *Verges and various pockets of land around the town are not being cared for eg. the Dart Bridge Road end of Elliot Plain.*

Cllr Pam Barrett: These areas need to be mapped, but some areas are deliberately not cut back to promote wildlife habitat.

Cllr Pamela Forbes: Some pavements are so overgrown that pedestrians with poor mobility or pushchairs are finding it impossible to pass.

The Chair agreed that mapping is a good idea and should also take into account that Teignbridge District Council (TDC) are proposing to dispose of some of their land.

Cllr Andy Stokes: One of the main problems is that volunteers are prepared to help and cut back overhanging vegetation, but there is no facility to take it away for recycling.

16/49. Apologies for absence: Cllr Mark Maish and Linus McCloskey

16/50. Declaration of Interests: None

16/51. To approve & sign as a correct the Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee meeting on Wednesday 6th July 2016.

Signed by Cllr Janet Jones

16/52. Review of actions from previous meeting:

Emergency Plan – The Emergency Planning Officer at Devon County Council (DCC) will look at the original plan and a new review exercise will be arranged for the autumn.

Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan – Meeting to be arranged with the original steering group members. A Neighbourhood Plan meeting will also take place with Stephen Belli, Head of Planning at Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) which will include Councillors Rines, Jones, Barrett and Stokes.

DNPA are currently reviewing their Local Plan and the Clerk confirmed that the planning authority are aware that the Town Council wish to be involved with this process and had emphasised the need for consultation.

Mediation - Cllrs Simon Rines and Neil Smith have attended the first mediation meeting with DCC regarding the Whitecleave Quarry planning process and a second meeting will take place in October.

Church Hill Tree update – It was confirmed that no action will be taken by DNPA. Cllr Andy Stokes to check the land registry entry for this area to establish who is the landowner. The Clerk to report to Highways that the dead tree is a potential risk to motorists and pedestrians once the landowner's details are known.

16/53. Planning Applications:

0372/16 and 0398/16 (application received after agenda set) Proposed: 1) Demolition of existing garage and store 2) Removal of existing agricultural building and construction of new agricultural building at Outer Finches, Hembury Cock Hill, Buckfastleigh

No Objection to both applications - subject to an ecological survey of the agricultural building.

0382/16 Proposed: Single storey extension to side and rear of existing dwelling at 2 Timbers Close, Buckfastleigh

Support – an improvement to the property

0322/16 Extension to the existing Linhay Hill Quarry, Ashburton for the extraction of minerals and creation of new permanent landscaping bunds with associated landscaping, surface water management works and other environmental improvements on land adjacent to the quarry. Planning application accompanied by an Environmental Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2011 (as amended) – adjoining parish consultation.

Consultation deferred until September due to outstanding questions by the Highways Authority

16/54. Planning Applications received after Agenda Set: None

16/55. Whitecleave Quarry Working Party Update:

Standing Orders were suspended for the duration of Agenda Item No: 8) to enable Kathryn Hughes to speak as a member of the Whitecleave Quarry Working Party.

A working party meeting was held on 1st August 2016 and the DCC response to the Town Council complaint dated 10th June 2016 was discussed.

Decision: All PEAT members agreed that Cllr Simon Rines drafts a response to this letter and that this matter is resolved at the September Town Council meeting.

The group are exploring contact with the South West Aggregates Board and as to whether their advice would be helpful.

The blasting period permission date has now expired. Quarrying may recommence and the community need to be aware of this.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to DCC to request a more proactive chain of communication and to keep the Town Council via the Clerk up to date with developments and activities which can then be reported to this committee.

The Review of Minerals Permission (ROMP) notice was served in June 2016.

Although mediation is ongoing there have been no Local Liaison Group meetings so no information is being received. The Buckfastleigh Community Forum were unable to attend the one to one meetings, but this has now been agreed for October.

Cllr Pam Barrett: A response to the amended Devon Minerals Plan is required by 23rd September 2016. There have been a number of amendments and deletions and it is a more precise document, but there is concern that it is detrimental to communities in Devon. Comments can only be made regarding the amendments, not the whole document.

Decision: Members to provide feedback at the September PEAT meeting with a view to formulating a response from the Council.

16/56. Proposal by Teignbridge District Council to end the distribution of paper consultations to Town and Parish Councils:

Members agreed it is difficult to read large and detailed plans on-line and the Council cannot print A2 documents in-house.

The Clerk: Members of the public like to examine plans in the Town Hall as not all have internet access. The cost of printing plans is being passed from the planning authority to the parish.

Action: Cllrs Andy Stokes and Greg Porter to research the cost of a larger printer which could be part of the community equipment initiative and possibly share this resource with Ashburton.

Clerk to contact neighbouring parishes to ask if they would be interested in becoming a member of a new parish cluster group which can share advice and information.

16/57. To discuss pavement maintenance and safety within the Parish:

Cllr Pamela Forbes: The pavements around Buckfastleigh are in a poor state, particularly with overgrown vegetation.

Cllr Janet Jones: This matter was discussed with the Highways Officer during a recent site visit in Froe Street.

Members were reminded that there is an online reporting service for DCC and an alternative online site called "Fix My Street."

The area around Glebelands and Oaklands Park was identified as an area of concern.

Cllr Ron Fox: There is a problem with re-reporting online as once a job is logged as being fixed, the site will not acknowledge the failure of the first repair.

Cllr Pamela Forbes: There does not seem to be any routine to the work carried out which is often not finished to a good standard.

16/58. Correspondence: None

16/59. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.23pm