

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Meeting held on 7th December 2016.

Present: Councillors Janet Jones (Chair), Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

Part I (Open to the Public)

16/95. Questions raised by the public: None

16/96. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Pam Barrett, Mark Maish and Andy Stokes

16/97. Declaration of Interests: None

16/98. To approve & sign as a correct the Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee meeting on Wednesday 2nd November 2016.

Signed by Cllr Janet Jones

16/99. Review of actions from previous meeting:

Work to A38 Lower Dean to Dart Bridge Road landscape improvement – Cllrs Janet Jones and Simon Rines met with the Senior Arborist from Kier Highways and a representative from Natural England who were very helpful. It was agreed that Kier Highways, as the contractor to Highways England, would liaise with the Town Council regarding any future work planned for the A38 that would have an impact on Buckfastleigh.

Cllr Janet Jones: Natural England are looking at whether Buckfastleigh is a noise hotspot and if it meets the noise reduction criteria to have remedial work carried out to the A38 such as modern surfacing material. It would take a huge volume of trees, 30 to 40m deep, to reduce the noise and road surfacing is a far more effective of providing acoustic screening. Natural England have also carried out a wildlife survey before the current programme of work commenced.

It was agreed that Kier Highways will provide contact details to the Clerk for reference.

Letter to Devon Highways re the adoption of LED street lamps – The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received to the letter sent on 4th November 2016 although Devon Wildlife Trust have advised that the LED lighting will deter some species of bats from feeding around lamp posts, Greater Horseshoe Bats dislike all forms of artificial lighting and will stay away from all types of street lighting.

Members agreed that the main issue is that Devon Highways did not inform the Town Council of their intention to change the street lights and that this is an example of the lack of communication between the authorities.

Cllr Ron Fox: This matter should be brought to the attention of the County and District Councillors.

Action: Cllr Janet Jones will request that this concern is an agenda item for the next Teignbridge Association of Local Councils meeting which is regularly attended by a wide number of District, Town and Parish Councils.

Whitecleave Quarry Working Party Meeting – It was noted that the working party had recently met and that an update will be provided at December Town Council meeting together with the minutes to that meeting.

16/100. Planning Applications received after Agenda Set:

16/03245/TPO Proposed: Crown lift to one western red cedar by 1.5m, reduce five lateral limbs on one oak by 2m and crown reduce one sycamore at Springfield Lodge, Springfield Park, Buckfastleigh.

No Objection

16/101. Proposal to create a working party to discuss Community Assets and Buildings:

Members agreed that it is important to retain and preserve the assets and buildings of community or historical interest for future generations. A register of assets needs to be compiled and a discussion took place regarding the old Dial Court workshop and forge site and the launder in Bridge Street.

Action: Clerk to arrange a working party meeting in January. Cllrs Janet Jones, Ron Fox and Linus McCloskey to be members of this working party and to invite Cllrs Pam Barrett, Simon Rines and Andy Stokes.

16/102. Correspondence: None

16/103. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 10.22am