

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Town Meeting** held in the Council Chamber on **Wednesday 9th April 2008 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Councillors:- P Clarke, A. Armstrong, D Joint, C Millman, S Mitchell, D Rudgley, M Tolchard and the Town Clerk.

Press: None

Public: Three members of the public attended.

08/01 **Apologies for Absence:** P. Hedges
D. Merkel & C. Mitchell did not attend.

08/02. **To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 11th April 2007.**
Signed and approved.

08/03. **Presentation by the Chairman of Buckfastleigh and District Society, Mrs Ann Armstrong – Entry for the South West in Bloom Neighbourhood Award.**

A. Armstrong explained that the Society would be entering the Orchard Millennium Green for a neighbourhood award in the 2008 South West in Bloom scheme. The award is non-competitive and is designed to recognise achievements of community groups on maintaining the local environment. The area does not have to be picture postcard but, marks are given for any floral displays, trees, provision of seats, neat grass and wildlife habitats. Recycling is also important and keeping the area litter free.

The Society is producing a portfolio giving a history of the Green and would like to include photos of any events held over the year. The Working Party meets on the Green on the first Saturday of each month from now until October and any help would be welcome.

08/04. **Report on the Town Council 2007/08 by Councillor Peter Clarke, Town Mayor:**

The Mayor reported that the year had been characterised by the consolidation of work started by previous councils.

The number of councillors is now ten and it was hoped to increase the number to the full twelve councillors within the near future.

The incidence of reported crime in Buckfastleigh, has in some important aspects fallen by 40% in the last two years.

The Town Council has been represented on PACT (Partners and Community Together) since November, which is aimed closer working between the Police and the local community.

Councillor Clarke explained that the CCTV system has now been upgraded to a digital system with two additional external cameras.

Despite unforeseen delays, the work on the Town Hall is due to start in April. This is intended to be the first phase of a programme to refurbish parts of the Town Hall to current standards, including the requirements of the recent Disablement Regulations.

Ashburton and Buckfastleigh are to provide 800 additional houses in the next five years with infill and brown field sites to be used wherever possible. The effect on the already overloaded road system however, is a cause for concern. The Town Plan Group (BUGS) is about to distribute its questionnaire to every household in the parish and the Mayor commented that the group should be complimented on it's work.

Work to upgrade the Bungalow Youth Project is due to commence in August which will not just benefit the young, but the community as a whole.

The Mayor reported that the precept has been raised by 7.3% due to rising Costs in particular utility bills.

In conclusion the Town Council has worked well together over the past year and Councillor Clarke expressed his thanks to all the Councillors for their support. In particular the Mayor felt indebted to the sub-committee Chairmen, Carole Millman and Donald Joint, to the Deputy Mayor, Pat Hedges, and to the skill of the Town Clerk, Judith Hart, whom the Council regard as a great asset to this town.

08/05. **Questions raised by the Public:** None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.