

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council Meeting** held in the Council Chamber on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.30 pm.**

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

Press: None

One member of the public attended and Cllr. S. Barker was in attendance.

## **Part 1. (Open to the Public)**

07/167. **Questions raised by the Public:** None

07/168. **Police Report:** 10.01.08 – 10.02.08

P.C Ali Hooper reported that there had been 77 incidents in the Buckfastleigh area during the above period, but many of these had been due to traffic and miscellaneous problems. The level of crimes reported have dropped significantly which is partly due to a higher Police presence in the town and new initiatives involving other organisations.

07/169. **Apologies:** P. Hedges, D. Merkel, C. Mitchell & M. Tolchard

07/170. **Declarations of Interest:** None

07/171. **Items requiring Urgent Attention :** None

07/172. **To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008.** Approved and signed.

07/173. **To receive the minutes of the Extraordinary Highways & Planning Committee held on the 23rd January 2008 and the Minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.**  
Received and noted.

07/174. **To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. (enclosed)**  
**To resolve the following recommendations from Minute Nos:**  
**07/89 Grant Applications and 07/92 Consort's Chain.** All agreed & resolved by Members.

07/175. **Chairman of Finance request to change a Finance Committee Meeting Date.**

Members agreed that the scheduled date could be changed for the September Finance Committee meeting from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. Town Clerk to amend accordingly.

**01/176. Planning Charter for Parish Councils. (correspondence enclosed)**

Following discussion members agreed that the Town Clerk should complete and return the information requested by Teignbridge District Council.

**01/177. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised the meeting that the first phase of the planned refurbishment will be starting shortly.

Members were advised that the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. P. Hedges had requested leave of absence from Council duties for two months which was accepted.

**07/178. Clerk's Announcements:**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the new door buzzer to the Council Chamber had been installed and that a successful fire risk assessment had been carried out at end of January which stated the building is well managed and all the recommendations made in 2005 by the fire safety company have been implemented by the Clerk.

**07/179. Correspondence:**

Community Council of Devon – Devon Association of Community Buildings: Access Project – 30.1.08. Subscription to a new website for community buildings and halls to publicise what is available in the area for local groups and organisations. Recommendation to subscribe to this new initiative proposed by C. Millman and seconded by D. Rudgley.

**07/180. Reports from other meetings attended by Members:**

Cllr. S. Barker reported on behalf of Devon County Council that a new 56 Bedroom home will be built at Kenwyn Residential Care Home in Ashburton following a long period of lobbying which will start in December 2009.

Existing residents will be given the opportunity to move to the care home in Bovey Tracey during the work if required.

Throughout Devon there will be an increase in the number of beds available and a large proportion of these will be available to the County Council for allocation.

Cllr. Barker continued that the Bungalow Youth Project has now secured it's funding for the extension and work which is due to start in August. The Bank Youth Club building however, is in a very poor condition and although owned by the Church, the leases have not been long enough to secure adequate funding. As a Grade II listed building careful upgrading will be required. Cllr. Barker continues to work on this matter.

Cllr. Barker advised that Devon County Council had a 3.9% increase in their budget proposal for 2008/09 and explained that the highway maintenance budget had been cut as a result and there would be no traffic order budget for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Barker then proceeded to advise that Teignbridge District Council's Local Development Framework group had reviewed their document and it has been agreed that listening events should be held with parish councils and other interested groups so that their views can be included in a revised framework document.

Cllr Barker explained that the Town Council would also need to look at having a development & design statement for the town and that a view is also required on housing market assessment with the proposed 880 affordable houses for Ashburton & Buckfastleigh.

Cllr. Barker then advised that the proposed 2008/09 budget increase for the District Council was 4.9%. £20,000 will be awarded to the Rural & Urban Aid groups for the forthcoming year, although last years fund had not been distributed as yet.

Free bus travel will continue, but only at the level set by central government guidelines and not as before which has resulted in a £647,000 shortfall in running costs.

Cllr Barker also reported that the ongoing problem with pot holes in the town has led to too many temporary repairs and complete re-surfacing of certain areas has been encouraged, as excessive rainfall has made the recent repairs pointless.

Finally, Cllr. Barker confirmed that the proposed pedestrian enhancement scheme for Jordan Street/Newcause had been withdrawn.

Cllr A. Armstrong reported that she had attended a recent TALC meeting where Lesley Tucker, Head of Finance at Teignbridge District Council had given a talk about their spending plans.

A. Armstrong and D. Rudgley had attended a Town Plan 'BUGS' meeting and advised that the town questionnaire is still being produced with 40 questions as the final number agreed. These will be delivered to every household in the parish and residents can return the completed questionnaires to drop points around the town such as the church, town hall, post offices etc.

**07/181. Reports from working parties attended by Members:**

D.Joint reported that a CCTV working party had been held with the CCTV Contractor and the start of a hopefully productive dialogue had been entered into in an attempt to resolve various problems and issues with the system.

**07/182 Items requiring urgent attention.** None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm