

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council Meeting** held in the Council Chamber on **Wednesday 14th March 2007 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Councillors:- D Joint, P Hedges, S. Barker, P Clarke, D. Merkel, C. Millman, C.Mitchell, S. Mitchell, M. Tolchard, P. Weekes and the Town Clerk.

Press: Mid Devon Advertiser

Part 1. (Open to the Public)

- 07/167. **Questions raised by the Public:** 4 members of the public attended the grant presentations
- 07/168. **Police Report:** Noted
- 07/169. **Grant Awards Presentation:**
Section 137 awards were presented by the Mayor of Buckfastleigh to the following:-
- a) Teignbridge CAB - £250
 - b) Buckfastleigh Chamber of Trade - £250
 - c) Buckfastleigh Chamber of Trade - £250
 - d) The Over 60's Club - £200
 - e) Third Age Project - £200
 - f) Buckfastleigh Panto Group - £250
- 07/170 **Apologies for absence** – None
D. Kerswell did not attend
- 07/171 **Declaration of Interest:** None
- 07/172. **Items requiring Urgent Attention. To consider those items which, in the opinion of the Committee Chair, should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency (if any). To be taken at the end of the meeting:** None
- 07/173 To approve as a correct record & sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 14th February 2007. Approved and signed.
- 07/174. To received the minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee held on 7 March 2007. Noted.
- 07/175. To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 28th February 2007. Noted.
To resolve the recommendations from this meeting - Minute Nos: 07/104 Library Room Hire Charges 2007/2008 - 3% increase. All Members in favour.
07/105 Holy Trinity Church Community Donation. All Members in favour.

07/106 Review of Financial Regulations. All Members in favour.

07/176. Town Councillor and School Governor Vacancy:

Request from the Chairman of Governors of Buckfastleigh Primary School to fill the vacancy left by Cllr. J. Butler as soon as possible.

Members were advised that this position is now known as a Community Governor and it does not mean that the vacancy has to be filled by a Town Councillor. Following discussion S. Barker proposed and P. Hedges seconded the proposal that D. Joint be nominated to this position as he will be standing down as Council Chairman in May 2007. Approved.

07/177 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman raised the issue over lack of Members at the February Town Council Meeting and their commitment to the forthcoming election. The Chairman referred to Page 25 point 5 of the Good Councillor's Guide and that Members should adhere to this.

The May Election nomination papers were discussed.

07/178. Clerk's Announcements: None

07/179. Correspondence:

Devon Playing Fields Association received 14.3.07. Renewal of Membership agreed.

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

S. Barker had attended an Affordable Housing in Rural Areas meeting and had questioned as to why Buckfastleigh Town Council had not been invited to this despite being allocated some housing provision under the core strategy for Teignbridge in a small site identified for development. There is clearly a lack of affordable and rented housing in the town. The core strategy document proposes a shared ownership scheme (for eg the recently built Duckspend Close) or the option of market discount properties. Applicants must have a local qualification to apply. Members agreed that there is clearly not enough rented housing in the area particularly for young couples and young families. The choice based lettings system now used by housing associations does not necessarily give local people any priority. Buckfastleigh houses are not affordable with a mortgage.

S. Barker discussed that Buckfastleigh Town Council does not have a design statement and suggested the proposal for the Town Council to have it's own housing plan which would influence decisions over future planning applications. The Chairman of the Highways and Planning Committee agreed that this should be an agenda item for further discussion at the next Planning Committee.

07/181. Reports from working parties attended by Members: None.

07/182. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

