

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Erin Kohler-Ockmore, John Bailey, David Patrick, Andy Stokes, Kathy Taylor and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: None

Press: None

21/125. Apologies: Councillors Kate Kayley, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips, Bryony Tilsley, John Nutley (District) and Sarah Parker-Khan (District)

No apologies received from Cllr Darren Greep

21/126. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

21/127. Newly co-opted Town Councillor welcome:

Cllr Kathy Taylor was welcomed to the Town Council

21/128. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 18th August 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

Actions from the Town Council Meeting:

- Questionnaire still to be circulated by Councillor Cox
- Planning Application received after agenda set: 20/01483/MAJ Proposed: Self-build/custom build dwellings (6 affordable) and build to rent dwellings (affordable rent) (approval sought for access) to Land to the South of Strode Road.
Members agreed that this application is not clear although the existing plans have not changed. The proposed access to Strode Road is in an area of poor visibility and there is no provision for a pedestrian crossing. The plan indicates that surface water will drain into the Dean Burn which will exacerbate flood risk to the town and there is no clear description of wastewater management. The site is also immediately adjacent to the A38, an area of known pollutants.

Decision: Members object to this application. Cllr Patrick to draft a response

21/129. Questions and comments from the public: None

21/130. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports:

No County or District Councillors present.

21/131. Police Reports for June and July 2021:

It was noted that crime has increased over the summer, which coincides with the ending of lockdown. If there is a general increase of reported incidents is this due to the lack of police presence in the town.

Action: Cllr Clarke to ask for an officer to attend a meeting.

21/132. Smaller Grant Applications:

The following organisations were awarded grants:

- i) Buckfastleigh Residents Association - £500 for renovation of play park boundary wall
- ii) Sharing Buckfastleigh - £250 contribution towards volunteer driver mileage
- iii) Friendship Group - £250 for outings for the socially isolated

Decision: All grant applications approved unanimously.

21/133. Review of Emergency Plan and volunteer recruitment:

It was proposed that the volunteer training and safeguarding policies created for Covid could be incorporated into the existing plan and the volunteers recruited to help with the pandemic response invited to join the Emergency Plan list.

Actions: Cllr Stokes to liaise with Laura at St. Luke's Church to see if the Town Council can access the mailing list in accordance with GDPR.

Cllr Patrick to review the existing plan.

Item referred to the October Town Council meeting for further discussion.

21/134. Community Consultation Questionnaire – to approve/amend draft copy:

Awaiting final draft from Cllr Cox.

21/135. Proposed Amendments to the Town Council Safeguarding Policy:

Members agreed to retain the original document and review as required.

21/136. Budget Analysis Report 01.08.21 – 31.08.21: Noted

21/137. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.08.21 – 31.08.21: Noted

21/138. External Audit Certificate and Report 2020-21:

A satisfactory report was accepted, and the Clerk was thanked for her work on this.

21/139. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Clarke will attend the Newton Abbot Civic Service in October.

The Clerk has participated in a promotional National Park video following the success of the Moor Otter project.

21/140. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Patrick referred to the new Dartmoor National Park Authority byelaws consultation. The document provides further clarification of existing laws and additional instructions such as no camper vans parking overnight and businesses operating without permission.

Cllr Bailey reported two abandoned vehicles at the Football Club car park.

Action: Clerk to report.

It was noted that reduced Universal Credit payments and predicted increases to energy costs is likely to significantly impact demand on the Food Bank.

Cllr Stokes has met with a representative of a local aggregate supplier regarding the resurfacing and marking of the tennis court at Duckspound playing field. The cost is estimated at £19,500 plus additional funds for mobile netball, basketball stands to make it a multi-functional sports space and for a wide variety of age groups. Ongoing discussions with Teignbridge District Council (TDC) have not resulted in a plan for this area of green space which is poorly maintained. A plan is needed to move forward, but with the cooperation of TDC.

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore attended a flag raising ceremony at Forde House to acknowledge the work of the emergency services.

21/141 Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

21/142. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to liaise with the Chair

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

DRAFT