

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting using the remote meeting service Zoom held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Pam Barrett, John Bailey, Huw Cox, Darren Greep, Kate Kayley, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council), Tracey Hamston (Be Wild), Tim Dollimore (The Media Workshop), Phil Northcott (Treasurer, Victoria Park), Erin Kohler-Ockmore and 3 members of the public

Press: None

**20/118. Apologies:** Cllrs Gwena Harman, Ron Fox and Sarah Parker-Khan (Teignbridge District Council)

### **20/119. Councillors invited to declare any interests:**

Cllr Barrett declared an interest in Agenda item No. 11 Annual Perennial Grant Review for Victoria Park

### **20/120. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 16th September 2020 and review actions from this meeting:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

### **Actions from this meeting:**

- 20/98 Air quality monitoring request: Teignbridge District Council (TDC) do not feel there is a need to carry out monitoring in Buckfastleigh.  
Cllr Barrett: TDC stopped monitoring but the A38 at Dean Prior is exceeding the limit. TDC are waiting to receive traffic flow comparisons from Devon County Council (DCC). Clerk to monitor response.  
It was suggested that the Town Council could purchase their own equipment, but it would be useful to seek university advice and ask if they want to monitor as part of a project. Cllr Stokes to action
- 20/104: It was acknowledged that are issues with technology and access to virtual meetings which will continued to be monitored.
- 20/102: Cllr Phillips would like more supporting evidence on Be Buckfastleigh following the recent Larger Grant award, including numbers for the current year. Cllr Barrett confirmed that she is happy to provide more information if requested.

### **20/121. To vote on the co-option of one Town Councillor vacancy:**

Only one application has come forward for the Town Councillor vacancy which must be filled. The Chair asked if there are any further questions or discussion needed the meeting could be moved into a Part II session. Cllr Phillips proposed to accept Erin Kohler-Ockmore which was seconded by Cllr Stokes with all Members in favour.

## **20/122. Questions and comments from the public:**

David Harbott asked if the Council could find a way to mark Black History Month. Cllr Stokes will meet to discuss this further.

It was suggested that it would be helpful to have attendees who are not Councillors introduce themselves to the meeting and the purpose of their attendance.

**Action:** Clerk to include introductions as a standing item for future agendas

## **20/123. To discuss and agree a community Christmas celebration:**

Cllr Barrett explained that a COVID safe celebration is being proposed.

Tim Dollimore outlined the 3 proposals – window displays, projected lights onto buildings and pyrotechnics circulated in the report to Members.

£3,300 has been provisionally ear marked for this purpose subject to agreement. Cllr Bailey expressed concern about additional costs and liability.

Cllr Clarke: It is important to have some celebration for the community.

Tim Dollimore: The event would take place from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December although the pyrotechnic displays would be a one-off and he is aware of the concern about livestock and pets.

Members shared this concern, but generally supported the idea of lights projection and window displays, but not the fireworks. An outdoor drive-in cinema was also suggested which could be hosted by South Devon Railway and run in conjunction with their own events. Other suggestions included a light display on Buckfast Abbey and lit beacons or bonfires.

Tim Dollimore highlighted that challenges to the budget include issues around power supply, waterproofing and security.

Cllr Barrett stressed the need to allocate a budget due to the limited timescale and that the Town Council would not be paying a commercial rate for this proposal.

The Clerk referred to budget underspends which could be used to fund this event in addition to the Culture and Events budget and that there is still some funding left in the Barn Park Emergency Fund despite offers of assistance to those who had been affected.

**Action:** Cllr Patrick proposed that one final letter is sent to the three original beneficiaries of the fund to ask if it may be used for another purpose which was seconded by Cllr Stokes. Cllr Phillips suggested a deadline for reply.

Members agreed to use the £2,000 in the Culture and Events budget and that further funding is subject to review.

It was suggested that the Town Hall could be used as a secure venue to project a light display onto the school and Tim confirmed that each projection only uses 17 amps once up and running.

**Decision:** Cllr Patrick proposed £2,000 and £383 from the skate rink ring-fenced budget which was seconded by Cllr Stokes with use of the Barn Park fund, if agreed, or an alternative source. All in favour.

Tim Dollimore to re-work within that budget with no pyrotechnics. It was agreed to go ahead with Window Wanderland with a proviso for the projections. Costs to the Clerk to circulate.

(Rev Tom Benson arrived at 8.05pm)

**20/124. Proposal to support and fund the delivery of recommendations in the draft Buckfastleigh and Buckfast Verge Management Plan:**

Tracey Hamston went through the circulated information on verge management which is based on the far-reaching benefits of conservation, health and wellbeing and carbon capture. The verge project was started this year by Be Wild. Verges can be selected as there is no requirement to take all of them and no long-term commitment with an annual rolling agreement.

Tracey explained that the initial cost for the project is £1,265 which includes an area of Deptford Pinks that will require some work with an annual cost of £650 thereafter.

The Council would need to negotiate with contractors, but Tracey has quite a number of volunteers and can provide support.

Cllr Barrett: The Farm Able Trust Grow Together Project is in partnership with Be Buckfastleigh, so will link to this.

Cllr Phillips: Can Share Shed help with this?

Cllr Stokes: When are funds needed?

Cllr Barrett: The Council would be using volunteers to manage this service and the agreement is with Devon County Council.

**Decision:** It is proposed that the Town Council takes on the verge management and implements the proposals with Be Wild helping to deliver. All in favour with an annual review.

**20/125. Questions to District and County Councillors:** None

**20/126. Budget Analysis Report 01.09.20 – 30.09.20:** Noted

**20/127. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.09.20 – 30.09.20:** Noted

**20/128. Multi-Pay Card Statements August to September 2020:** Noted

**20/129. Annual Perennial Grant Review for Victoria Park, Grant Reports and Grant Allocation Report:**

Phil Northcott, Treasurer of Victoria Park, presented the grant report for the year ending March 2020. Swimming for 2020 is not included. He explained that there are still significant costs even when the pool is not open for e.g. refurbishment and emergencies, the installation of the new splash pool lift, and disabled ladder.

Cllr Clarke asked about cold-water swimming and new research about cold shock treatment for dementia?

Cllr Barrett: The pool season had been extended for cold water swimming and they have held 5 ice galas drawing people from across the UK who stay in the town. The UK cold-water champions also use the pool. The impact of 2020 on the pool situation is not part of this grant review discussion but the Council may wish to look at this.

The total annual running costs are approx. £60,000 with the Town Council grant supporting day to day costs and projects.

Cllr Stokes thanked the trustees and employees which was seconded by Cllr Clarke.

Members noted the end of grant report submitted by the Vincent Wildlife Trust and the report from Citizens Advice.

**20/130. Initial Budget 2021/22 discussion:**

TDC have just circulated a predicted 2.5% drop in the tax base. Draft budget figures will need to be revised to take account of this with priorities identified. It was agreed to defer further discussion to November with a second working party meeting to be arranged.

**20/131. To discuss a new programme of Community Training (deferred from the September meeting):**

Cllr Kayley is leading on community training. Due to working at home she has not had the opportunity to progress this. Delivery has changed due to the restrictions. To discuss with Cllr Barrett.

**20/132. Buckfastleigh Response Update:**

Tom Benson confirmed that the response team are ready to step up activity when needed.

**20/133. To agree the future of virtual Town Council meetings, frequency of meetings and**

**Decision:** Due to the length of time needed to discuss business at each monthly meeting it was agreed to hold two meetings per month starting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**20/134. Planning Application 0300/19 Proposed: Mixed use development including demolition of community hall, part demolition of existing factory buildings and retail floorspace to construct a care village, communal facilities hub, community hall, retail provision, associated open space, car parking and access at Lower Mills, Buckfast Road, Buckfast.**

Cllr Stokes attended the site visit. There is no affordable housing and no obligation to provide any. The original allocation of 20% has now been reduced to 10% for clients referred from Social Services which is not a long-term commitment and is not contributing to Buckfastleigh's housing need.

Councillors had initially supported this application which has now been amended. Any other development would have required some affordable provision. A Section 106 agreement is not applicable because it is not a housing development, but some contribution to the community should be sought.

Cllr Stokes will be attending the Dartmoor National Park Authority Development Committee Meeting when this amended application will be discussed.

Cllr Patrick: Good application and good use of land but should stick to the original proposals

**Decision:** Members are broadly in support of this application but disappointed that the number of social units have been decreased and that there is no long-term commitment to this. Cllr Stokes to stress the concerns of the Town Council at the planning meeting. Clerk to respond to the planning officer.

**20/135. Subject to Standing Order 17a) and b) Buckfastleigh Town Council acting in its capacity as custodian trustee to agree and sign by resolution the execution of documents and deeds to surrender the lease of Buckfast Village Hall, Buckfast Road, Buckfast to the Buckfast Abbey Trustees registered:**

**Decision:** Clerk to ask for clarification in writing from the planning officer that demolition will not take place until an alternative community space is made available to local groups and organisations. Subject to the above, it was agreed to sign the documents. Proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Barrett with all Members in agreement.

**20/136. Chair's Announcements:** None

Cllr Nutley left the meeting at 9.00 pm

**20/137. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:**

Cllr Patrick: Responses to the drains survey have been collated and will be forwarded to Devon Highways. Some positive progress with Devon County Council has been made.

**20/138. Items requiring Urgent Attention:**

Cllr Stokes has written a response to the national Planning for the Future consultation which had been circulated for comment. It was proposed that this response is approved and submitted on behalf of the Council.

**Decision:** All Members in agreement. Clerk to action.

**20/139. Summary of Key Messages:**

Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

The Chair moved the meeting into a Part II session under Agenda Item No. 22 which included attendance by Tom Benson to discuss an item of confidential business.

**20/140. Part II (Private session)**

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.25pm.