

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting using the remote meeting service Zoom held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Pam Barrett, Darren Greep, Gwena Harman, Erin Kohler-Ockmore, Sylvee Phillips, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Sarah Parker Khan (Teignbridge District Council) and Tim Dollimore (The Media Workshop)

Press: None

**20/141. Apologies:** Cllrs John Bailey, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Kate Kayley, David Patrick and John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council)

**20/142. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** No interests declared

**20/143. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and review actions from this meeting:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

**Actions from this meeting:**

- 20/98 (16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 meeting minute) Air quality monitoring request: Cllr Stokes awaiting response from Plymouth University.
- 20/124. Buckfastleigh and Buckfast Verge Management Plan: Clerk to discuss further with Cllr Barrett.
- 20/135: Representatives of the Buckfast Abbey trustees have not to date confirmed in writing that an adequate and usable community space will be made available prior to the proposed demolition of Buckfast Village Hall. The execution of documents and deeds to surrender the lease by the Town Council continues to be deferred until this matter has been resolved.
- 20/140: Part II (Private) item – other options are being explored.

**20/144. Questions and comments from the public:** No public in attendance

**20/145. Community Christmas celebration update following initial discussion at the October Meeting:**

Tim Dollimore has looked at different options and shared examples with the meeting. It has been agreed that an initial suggestion to host a light projection in Whitecleave Quarry is not feasible due to the impact on the resident bat and peregrine falcon population. Buckfastleigh Primary School is potentially a suitable site pending further discussion with the Head Teacher who has asked that some of the children could be involved with the design as part of an 'open canvas' Christmas project. Projection onto the school could be facilitated at the Town Hall over 3 nights from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at a time to be agreed. Tim was asked to include St. Mary's School too.

Practical matters such as access, social distancing, road safety and marshalling would need to be agreed and it was suggested that the view to the school through the railings is blocked to prevent distractions to passing motorists. The public could be directed through the playground to control numbers and that this would need to be managed.

This would be a Town Council funded event facilitated by The Media Workshop.

**Actions:**

- Cllr Greep to undertake a risk assessment of the playground and road.
- Cllrs Clarke, Greep and Tim to meet and discuss further options. Cllr Fox and volunteers from the Sports Club to be invited to this meeting.
- Advertising, the event name and volunteer welfare to be agreed.
- Tim to liaise with Buckfastleigh Primary School.
- Town Hall Manager to arrange access to the Town Hall for Tim and Cllr Greep to carry a site visit to assess the siting of equipment and power supply.

It was suggested that provision is made for local Care Home residents to enjoy the display.

**20/146. Questions to District and County Councillors:**

Cllr Sarah Parker Khan advised the meeting that Devon has received £32 million in government funding, £264,000 of which has been allocated by Teignbridge District Council (TDC) for a hardship fund for those residents who have no job protection and less than £500 in their bank account. There has been no response as to what measures TDC will be put in place for a second lockdown.

An online survey will shortly be available to town and parish councils and other groups within Teignbridge to review the impact of the coronavirus on rural and coastal communities compared to that of the larger communities.

**20/147. To discuss volunteer recruitment and funding for Christmas food baskets:**

Cllr Stokes is in discussion with St. Luke's Church and other local organisations concerning the funding and distribution of Christmas food baskets and gifts for families and individuals who are currently dependent upon support from the Food Bank but is awaiting further information.

It has been agreed that the delivery of a hot meal on Christmas Day would be difficult, so other options are being explored such as the distribution of frozen meals. Packed lunches for children will again be available from The Living Room during the Christmas school holiday. Cllr Barrett was thanked for organising this. It was acknowledged that poorer communities have been hit harder than the more affluent areas by the economic effects of the current crisis as the latter can achieve a higher amount of fund raising.

**20/148. Ratification of increase to corporate credit card:**

Some expenditure has been restricted by the current limit on the credit card. Cllr Stokes

proposed that the limit is increased from £500 to £750 which was seconded by Cllr Barrett with all Members in agreement. Clerk to action.

**20/149. Chair's Announcements:** None

Cllr Clarke will be representing the Town Council at the Remembrance Sunday service although further details as to how this will be held have not been confirmed. It was suggested that a photo is taken of the Chair laying the Town Council wreath at the War Memorial at Holy Trinity Church.

**20/150. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:**

The Buckfastleigh Response Core Group has met and the volunteer response for the Food Bank and the delivery of prescriptions will recommence on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November for those who are self-isolating to coincide with the second lockdown.

Members of the Town Hall Management Committee have met and agreed that the Town Hall which is Covid safe, should remain open for essential bookings that comply with the current criteria such as the click and collect library service and services for young people.

Cllr Barrett was pleased to advise that the first anniversary of Be Wild was held virtually on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and was well attended. Children in Need has also been in touch regarding the continued success of the Hello Summer programme of activities.

**20/151. Items requiring Urgent Attention:**

The withdrawal of the rural skip service by TDC was raised and it was suggested that the Town Council may wish to collaborate with Ashburton Town Council to fill the gap.

**Action:** To be discussed further at the next meeting.

**20/152. Summary of Key Messages:**

Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.