

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting using the remote meeting service Zoom held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), John Bailey, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Kate Kayley, Erin Kohler-Ockmore, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council), Cllrs Debbie Travers, Anne Wood and Greta Button (Okehampton Town Council) and Cllr Brian Wood (Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council)

Press: None

21/246. Apologies: Cllr Sarah Parker Khan (Teignbridge District Council)

No apologies received from Cllrs Gwena Harman and Darren Greep

The Chair welcomed fellow Councillors from the Okehampton area who had joined the meeting to observe having heard positive reports about the Town Council's innovative approach to meetings and the ability to get things done for our residents.

21/247. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

21/248. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 17th February 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke.

Actions from this meeting:

- 21/222. Carried over from the meeting held on 3rd February 2021 - Buckfastleigh Swift Project – proposals to be submitted to the Town Council – pending
- 21/223. Carried over from the meeting held on 3rd February 2021 - Rural skip/bulky waste collection service – Meeting to be arranged shortly.
- 21/226. Carried over from the meeting held on 3rd February 2021 - Councillor updates – Cllr Bailey advised that the town clock would cost £1,200 to £1,400 to repair. The replacement cost is not known yet but depending on the size of the dial face this is estimated to be in the region of £2,000 to £2,750 + VAT including fitting, the need for a permit from Devon Highways to carry out works above a pavement and scaffolding. Searles who have kindly agreed to continue to host the clock on their shop will also need to agree the design of the clock, but it will continue to be owned by the Town Council.

21/249. To vote on the co-option of one Town Councillor vacancy:

Cllrs Clarke, Cox and Phillips met virtually with the new candidate, Bryony Tilsley and confirmed their support for her co-option to fill the current vacancy.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr Stokes with all Members in agreement to co-opt at the next meeting.

21/250. Questions and comments from the public: None

21/251. Questions to District and County Councillors:

Cllr Phillips asked if there had been any proposals for the use and development of the old disused toilet block on Chapel Street?

It is understood that the site is privately owned having been bought from Teignbridge District Council (TDC) at auction some years ago. It was agreed that the site is too small to support any significant development and its previous use is unlikely to be needed in that area of the town.

Action: Cllr Cox to research ownership.

Cllr Nutley asked if it would be useful to return to providing reports from TDC relevant to this meeting. These could be circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting to facilitate any questions and avoid a lengthy session.

Members agreed that this would be helpful.

Cllr Nutley left at 7.25pm.

Cllr Cox reported that that the Future High Street Fund has been secured for the regeneration of Newton Abbot and that due to the TDC Climate Change policy funds have also been allocated for Dawlish Leisure Centre.

TDC have agreed to increase their precept by 2.1% which equates to an extra £5.00 for a Band D property. Devon County Council will be increasing their precept by 5% which includes 3% for adult and social care.

21/252. Response to the Teignbridge Housing Strategy Consultation:

Item deferred to the next meeting to allow time for further examination and clarification of points. The deadline for comments is 24 March 2021 and both Councillors and residents are encouraged to respond.

21/253. Proposal to shift the organisation, delivery, and funding of the Hello Summer programme to Be Buckfastleigh with effect from 1st April 2021:

Be Buckfastleigh C.I.C are applying for a significant pot of grant funding to facilitate health and wellbeing initiatives in the town. For the bid to be successful Be Buckfastleigh have requested that the £10,000 allocated in the Town Council's 2021/22 budget for the Hello Summer programme of children's activities is moved to Be Buckfastleigh to support this application and to deliver activities along with the final year of the Children in Need award secured by Victoria Park for this purpose. Pam Barrett as a Director and Secretary of the organisation would not be paid for this service and Be Buckfastleigh would be a central point for the organisation, delivery, and invoicing.

It was also agreed that some of this work could be delegated to Inga who previously managed this project as an employee of the Town Council and that any unspent funds should be returned.

Cllr Stokes confirmed that this proposal only applies to 2021/22, would not be an annual expense and monies would only be used to deliver the Hello Summer programme.

Decision: Proposed by Cllr Stokes, seconded by Cllr Clarke with all Members in agreement subject to a signed formal agreement between the Town Council and Be Buckfastleigh. Clerk to action.

21/254. Chair's Announcements: No matters to report.

21/255. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Clarke highlighted a resident's concerns about the amount of weed growth around the town but thanked the Town Council for all our work.

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore advised that she had been contacted by the South Devon Railway suggesting that a 20mph speed limit should be introduced in the town.

This has been an ongoing issue for some time with Devon County Council planning to carry out an initial trial in Newton Abbot, but there has been no further progress.

Cllr Patrick: There is no further news regarding the replacement flood gauge camera, but the existing gauge is working again.

It was also noted that the Crest Hill drains have been cleared, the number of potholes around the town are increasing again and Cllr Cox as the Road Warden will shortly receive the materials required to repair some of the smaller potholes which will include Colston Road.

The Rev Tom Benson arrived at 8.00pm

21/256. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

21/257. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

The Chair moved the meeting into a Part II session to discuss one item of confidential business and the representatives from Okehampton left.

21/258. Part II (private session)

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 8.42pm.