

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting using the remote meeting service Zoom held on Wednesday 17th February 2021 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Cllr John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council)

Press: None

21/230. Apologies: Cllr David Patrick

No apologies received from Cllrs Ron Fox, Darren Greep or Gwena Harman

21/231. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

21/232. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 3rd February 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke.

Actions from this meeting:

- 21/211. Carried over from the meeting held on 20th January 2021 - Decommissioning of CCTV update – The Clerk advised that she is currently seeking consent from Teignbridge District Council (TDC) for the contractor to work in Woodholme, Station Road and Mardle Way car parks and source keys for the lamp posts to access the electrical wiring. Cllr Nutley offered to assist with this.
- 21/222. Buckfastleigh Swift Project – proposals to be submitted to the Town Council – pending
- 21/223. Rural skip/bulky waste collection service – Cllr Cox was pleased to advise that several of the surrounding parishes have expressed an interest in this initiative and that Inga will be organising a meeting by the end of the month to this effect.
- 21/226. Councillor updates – Cllr Bailey confirmed that the Town Clock has been removed by a professional clock repair company to investigate if it can be repaired. The Clerk advised that the Highways Agency and Devon County Council will not be providing additional signs warning motorists to slow down when following the diversion through Buckfastleigh due to roadworks on the A38. Members agreed that this was a disappointing response, and that Strode Road is already in a poor state of repair which will be exacerbated by heavy traffic use.

21/233. Questions and comments from the public: No public in attendance.

21/234. Questions to District and County Councillors: None

21/235. Budget Analysis Report 01.01.21 – 31.01.21: Noted

21/236. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.01.21 – 31.01.21: Noted

21/237. Multi-Pay Card Statements October 2020 to January 2021: Noted

21/238. Annual Review of Standing Orders and Direct Debits:

Noted and approved.

21/239. Review of Buckfastleigh Town Council Assets Register 2021:

Noted and approved.

The Clerk clarified ownership and funding of maintenance for the Ducks Pond and that the Plymouth Road bus shelter which is currently covered in graffiti is a TDC owned asset.

21/240. Review of External Audit Certificate 2019/20 and Interim Internal Audit Report 2020/21:

Members noted the External Audit Certificate 2019/20 and that like many Councils the Clerk had requested a short extension at the time due to the difficulties of completing the end of year audit in the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic hence the small delay in publishing the Exercise of Public Rights.

Members noted the Interim Internal Audit Report 202/21. The Clerk was thanked for her excellent work on the interim audit following clarification of points highlighted by the auditor.

21/241. Chair's Announcements:

The Chair advised the meeting that one application for the Town Councillor vacancy had been received and the Clerk asked whether the Council wished to interview the candidate at either the next meeting or invited to an informal interview by a selected panel?

Decision: Members agreed to the second option with Cllrs Clarke, Cox and Phillips selected to meet the applicant via a Zoom meeting. Clerk to arrange. If agreed the new Cllr will be co-opted at the next Town Council meeting.

21/242. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Cox as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised that TDC are setting up a climate change and ecological emergency review group and may be consulting with Town and Parish Councils on this issue.

Cllrs Clarke, Bailey, Cox and Stokes together with the Town Clerk attended a second Verge Management meeting with representatives of the Be Wild group and Tom Whitlock the Devon County Council Ecologist. It was agreed that the implications of how the Town Council and local volunteers manage this initiative is quite complicated due to the health and safety, public liability and training requirements needed. A contractor or Cllr Cox as the Community Road Warden would need to manage the areas that are 1.2m from the carriageway which has a 40mph speed limit or above. Cllr Cox has a Chapter 8 certificate which permits him to work adjacent to a highway with two volunteers. It was agreed that the Town Council would not take over the cutting of visibility splays.

Following advice from Tom Whitlock and pending discussion with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Be Wild have agreed to draw up a proposal which combines some of the options given by Tom.

21/243. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

21/244. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

Cllr Nutley left the meeting at 7.44pm and the Chair moved the meeting into a Part II session to discuss two items of confidential business.

21/245. Part II (private session)

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.00pm.