

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting using the remote meeting service Zoom held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), John Bailey, Huw Cox, Kate Kayley, David Patrick, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Sarah Parker Khan and 1 member of the public

Press: None

21/201. Apologies: Cllrs Erin Kohler-Ockmore, Ron Fox and John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council)

No apologies received from Cllrs Darren Greep, Gwena Harman and Sylvee Phillips

21/202. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

21/203. To discuss the interim appointment of a Deputy Chair and Mayor:

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as not all Members present to discuss.

21/203. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 6th January 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

Actions from this meeting:

- 21/195. To discuss a Devon County Council (Traffic Regulation) Amendment – the Clerk confirmed that the response on behalf of the Council had been submitted.
- 21/196. Salmon Leap/Kilbury Weir update – following further investigation it has been established that the Duchy of Somerset is the landowner. Cllr Patrick agreed to contact the canoeing club to raise awareness of the hidden dangers of the collapsing weir and to ask for feedback
- 21/198. A consultation has been carried out regarding the future of the Town Clock with mostly positive comments from residents and a consensus that it should remain in its current location if it can be repaired and that Searles are still happy to have the clock fixed to their premises.

21/204. Questions and comments from the public:

A member of the public asked if the clock could be replaced if funds allow.

Action: Cllrs John Bailey and Sylvee Phillips to look at options.

21/205. Questions to District and County Councillors:

It was noted that South Hams District Council will be raising the council tax for second homes and empty properties and as to whether Teignbridge District Council (TDC) would consider

this? Cllr Cox confirmed that there has been no discussion regarding this suggestion, but they do encourage empty properties to be brought back into use. The TDC precept will be agreed in February and a budget survey is currently open for comment on the TDC website.

Cllr Parker Khan advised that the TDC Covid-19 helpline is open, but demand has been less than the first lockdown and there has not been any overriding need. Some small grants up to £700.00 will be available again and a domestic abuse awareness campaign has been launched.

21/206. Budget Analysis Report 01.12.20 – 31.12.20: Noted

21/207. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.12.20 – 31.12.20: Noted

21/208. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation: Noted

All financial reports approved unanimously.

21/209. To approve the revised Budget and Precept 2021/22:

The draft budget and precept were discussed and provisionally agreed at the Town Council meeting held on 16th December 2020 subject to revisions. It was noted that Council Tax revenues in Teignbridge have fallen due to Covid-19 and Buckfastleigh is facing a significant shortfall in its budget. To keep the same income and not make cuts to services at this critical time, it was agreed to raise the precept by 4.37% which equates to 11p per week based on a Band D property. In real terms the Council budget will therefore not be increased and will remain the same for 2021-22 at £147,153.

Proposed by Cllr Stokes with voting recorded as follows:

5 Members in favour of the above recommendations.

Cllr Huw Cox abstained from voting.

Decision: Motion carried

Thanks was conveyed to Cllr Stokes and the Clerk for their work on the budget.

21/210. To approve the draft response to the Government Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Service Infrastructure Consultation:

The draft response to this consultation had been circulated to all Members for comment following discussion at the previous meeting.

Decision: Submission approved unanimously. Clerk to action.

21/211. Decommissioning of CCTV update:

Cllr Cox reported that he is still pursuing clarifications from the companies who have provided quotes to decommission the CCTV.

Action: Cllr Cox to report back to this meeting in February.

21/212. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Clarke thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their support since she had been appointed as the new Chair.

21/213. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Patrick was pleased to report that the replacement floodwater gauge is now on order

following receipt of match funding from Devon County Council (DCC).

The Town Council has not received any further contact from TDC regarding the discussion about the possible transfer of assets at the Duckspound playing field.

21/214. Items requiring Urgent Attention:

The Clerk was asked to formally thank Ray Staines the Town Ranger who will be leaving his job on 1st February 2021 on behalf of the Town Council.

21/215. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

Cllr Parker Khan and the public left the meeting at 7.40pm

The Chair moved the meeting into a Part II session under Agenda Item No.16 to discuss an item of confidential business.

21/216. Part II (private session)

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 7.50pm.