

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting using the remote meeting service Zoom held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Erin Kohler-Ockmore (Acting Chair), Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Darren Greep, Kate Kayley, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips (arrived at 7.30pm), Bryony Tilsley and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Sarah Parker Khan (Teignbridge District Council). No members of the public
Press: None

21/01. Apologies: Cllrs John Bailey, Sue Clarke and Andy Stokes

No apologies received from Cllrs Gwena Harman

21/02. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

21/03. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 17th March 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Kohler-Ockmore

Actions from this meeting:

- 21/222. Buckfastleigh Swift Project, 21/223 Rural skip/collection service and 21/251 ownership of disused toilet block on Chapel Street – items carried over from previous meetings – pending.
- 21/264. A letter was sent by the Chair to Devon Highways concerning the poor condition of Plymouth/Strode/Dart Bridge Road which will be exacerbated by traffic using this as a diversion when works commence on the A38. The Chair also highlighted concerns about diverted traffic failing to reduce their speed with a request for additional signage. A response was received to advise that the road will be looked at subject to funding availability and that signage is adequate. The Council was again referred to the report a problem page on the Devon County Council website.

21/04. Questions and comments from the public: None

21/05. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Parker Khan gave an update:

- Teignbridge District Council (TDC) is now in purdah due to the upcoming Devon County Council election
- Progress at TDC is currently delayed due to staff shortages, including the proposed Buckfastleigh assets transfer
- Sarah and Pam Barrett have been working on the Be Buckfastleigh Holiday Hunger fund which is now up and running.

21/06. To approve the Budget Ring-Fence Report 2020 – 2021:

Decision: Report unanimously approved. Clerk to action

21/07. Teignbridge District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2021:

It was agreed that the proposed increase to parking charges to TDC owned car parks may not only discourage visitors to the town but is a further burden to residents due to the lack of on street parking and the impact on those who are either working from home or are on furlough. The recent implementation of Sunday charges also impacts residents, and it was suggested that the time for The Globe car park is extended to allow adequate opportunity for those who are dependent upon their vehicles for shopping. Members agreed that comparing the smaller communities with Newton Abbott where the car parks are more likely to be used for shopping and recreational purposes is unfair.

Action: Clerk to respond on behalf of the Town Council.

21/08. CCTV Update:

The Clerk reported that there has been some progress regarding the decommissioning of the CCTV and is now waiting for the contractor to respond.

21/09. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore asked about the Town Clock crowd-funding campaign which Cllr Tilsley is arranging. Local companies will be approached for contributions and launch shortly. It was noted that there are different types of crowd funding and how targets can be reached, but for this project a huge amount of funding is not needed. Cllr Tilsley will send out a draft publicity pack shortly.

21/10. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Patrick reported that the new flood camera is now installed and working well.

Cllr Patrick: A £166,000 grant has been secured from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for South Devon Railway. This could be an opportunity for the Town Council to re-engage with the railway and send a letter of congratulation?

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore asked if it was possible to participate in their Open Day but because of limitations due to social distancing, Cllr Patrick thought this was probably not possible.

The Clerk explained about previous tourism meetings and how it was useful to have quarterly updates. She also explained about the cost, time and work involved in producing previous town guides and that if the Council re-visits this a new publisher would need to be commissioned. Cllr Phillips suggested having an events leaflet. Businesses will slowly reopen, but due to social distancing, they cannot encourage large numbers of visitors.

As part of the Town Council's support for local tourism and recreation it was agreed to invite organisations including the Chamber of Trade to a virtual meeting.

Cllr Tilsley referred Members to initiatives that have been introduced or promoted by Dartmoor National Park (DNP) and what is available.

Cllr Phillips expressed concern about the recent proposals concerning the centralisation of national parks governance in London. Cllr Patrick will circulate a summary report about this.

Action: Inga to arrange a tourism, Chamber of Trade, and sports clubs meeting via Zoom within next few weeks.

Cllr Parker-Khan: The Community Taxi is still running and will take residents with no transport for vaccinations to the new location at Follaton House, Totnes. St. Boniface closed for vaccinations this week. The number for booking the taxi is 07779 728690

Cllr Greep: No one has complained directly to him regarding alleged activity at the Sports Club but have approached the Town Council. The contractor had left a mess and rubble was removed and soil was brought in to backfill last year. Currently the site is being used as a small BMX track for children. He confirmed that this is under control. The Sports Club has written to DNP for permission and is awaiting a reply.

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore said the complaints had been regarding noise from adults.

Cllr Greep: There are restricted times and larger bikes were initially used to break up the track. The position has been clarified with the Sports Club and use of the land is permitted as a temporary track.

21/11. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

21/12. Summary of Key Messages:

- Response to TDC parking charges and suggestion to extend the time at the Globe car park
- Council to meeting with tourism businesses
- Sports Club update concerning use of the site

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.