

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at Victoria Park, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh on Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Susan Clarke, Erin Kohler-Ockmore, John Bailey, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk). Darren Greep arrived at 7.15 pm.

In attendance: Cllr Sarah Parker Khan and 4 members of the public

Press: No press in attendance

21/58. Apologies: Cllrs David Patrick, Kate Kayley, Bryony Tilsley and John Nutley (District)

21/59. Councillors invited to declare any interests:

Cllr Huw Cox declared an interest in Agenda item No. 9 – to consider a Larger Grant Application.

21/60. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council meeting held on 5th May 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

No actions to report.

21/61. Questions and comments from the public: None

21/62. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Parker Khan: A complaint has been received from a resident regarding the speed of the traffic on Bossell Road. Speedwatch volunteers are needed as any representation to Highways must be evidence based. This initiative must also have support of the police which has previously not been available.

Action: Cllr Parker Khan to research further.

The Local Government Association has set up a climate change support programme to help councils and residents to reach their local target reduction targets.

The notice period for household evictions has been decreased from 6 to 4 months with effect from 1st June 2021 when evictions resume nationally. Teignbridge District Council (TDC) can offer early intervention support regarding tenant disputes and evictions.

COVID business grants are now available subject to criteria. Applications and further information can be found on the TDC website.

The government is carrying out a consultation on household and business waste and recycling to improve and increase consistency across the UK .

Councillors expressed concern regarding the lack of regular police updates/reports to this meeting.

Action: Letter to be sent to this effect asking for police reports to be reinstated or to find another method of providing information.

21/63. Budget Analysis Report 01.04.21 – 30.04.21: Approved

21/64. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.04.21 – 30.04.21: Approved

21/65. To receive the Internal End of Year Audit Report 2020/21:

An excellent report was noted. Thanks to the Clerk were proposed by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Clarke with all Members in agreement

21/66. Motion to Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill:

Cllr Stokes read out the draft motion and explained that the Bill is on its second reading in Parliament. There is a callout to local councils to support, but the target date of 2050 is not ambitious enough and is too slow. Buckfastleigh has set a 2030 target. Further lobbying is needed to gain the support and action of MPs, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change alliance etc and publicise in the press.

Action: Cllr Clarke proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr Cox. All Members voted in favour. Cllr Stokes to action.

21/67. Larger Grant Application:

Cllr Clarke summarised the grant application submitted by the William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust. It was noted that the project is open to the public and will enhance the wildlife at this site.

Cllr Phillips requested a breakdown of the costs but supports the project in principle.

Cllr Stokes proposed that a project plan would be helpful.

Cllr Bailey would like more evidence before agreeing to this application.

Proposal 1: it was suggested to agree in principle to £2000 but on the condition that a costed project plan is supplied with feedback. If monies are not spent in accordance with grant policy the Town Council will request a refund.

Proposal 2: Award £1,000 immediately and retain £1,000 subject to evidence and provision of a costed project plan.

Decision: All voted in favour of Proposal 2. Cllr Greep abstained from this vote.

21/68. Chair's Announcements:

The Wildspace Garden will be opened by the Chair in a small covid safe ceremony on Saturday 12th June and will be open to the public from Monday 14th June during weekdays only.

21/69. Councillor updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

The swimming pool and new Hope Garden will be opened on Saturday 29th May at 2.00pm.

It was noted that Reverend Tom Benson is leaving his position in June and that the Church Wardens will be responsible for services and day to day duties until the post is filled.

Cllr Stokes proposed presenting Tom with a Heart of Buckfastleigh Award certificate and a gift.

Decision: All Members in favour. Cllr Stokes to organise the certificate and Cllr Kohler-Ockmore to arrange a gift.

21/70. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

21/71. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.