

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting using the remote meeting service Zoom held on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Erin Kohler-Ockmore, Andy Stokes, David Patrick, Ron Fox, Huw Cox, Sylvee Phillips, Kate Kayley, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk). Darren Greep arrived at 7.17 pm.

**Apologies:** Cllrs John Bailey and Bryony Tilsley

No apologies received from Cllr Gwena Harman

**In attendance:** Cllrs Sarah Parker Khan and John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council). Pam Barrett (Be Buckfastleigh) and Mark Jeffrey (representing the Parents of Teenagers Group at The Glade, Dartington)

Press: None

### **21/13. Introduction and Welcome to the Town Meeting:**

Councillor Sue Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**21/14. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

### **21/15. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke. It was noted that the meeting schedule for 2020 was cancelled in line coronavirus legislation.

### **21/16. Presentation and Update by Pam Barrett, Be Buckfastleigh:**

Pam Barrett reported that she is continuing the work of Be Buckfastleigh which is the culmination of 10 years of community work. It is difficult to coordinate all the wide of activities provided by different organisations so Be Buckfastleigh is set up to work with national and local policymakers and to influence on behalf of small regional towns. Smaller communities lack of public services and have difficulty accessing national funds. Be Buckfastleigh is working to channel money into the community but for the benefit of all residents but is particularly aimed at those who suffer from social deprivation and economic hardship.

20% of the UK population lives in rural communities and have little or no access to services, which was been highlighted by the difficulties Devon County Council have had with food deliveries during the pandemic. Be Buckfastleigh's focus is on health and well-being, nutrition and support and community regeneration. They are actively engaged with Riverford who are keen to help improve economic activity for the town.

The organisation is also looking at the shortfall in early years provision and support for maternity/new mums and encouraging greater involvement with local democracy especially women.

Funding is sought using the user led design.

Be Better Off – economic strategy for Buckfastleigh. Local Enterprise Partnership is not relevant to our community or other small towns as focused on industry.

Free activities such as exercise classes. Work with Participate Arts and Be Wild e.g. building bird boxes and connecting with nature. All projects stand alone and intertwined. Be Wild was runner up for National Park competition.

Su Maddock is Chair. Regional councils and big charities cannot manage, as shown by the pandemic.

Cllr Clarke: We are lucky to have an organisation bringing together all the partnerships. How will this be funded into the future?

Pam Barrett: In discussion with the Lottery for ongoing multi-year funding as Buckfastleigh is being used as a rural model. Will hear about this in the summer.

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore: What is happening with early years provision in the future?

Pam Barrett: Need to know if funding secured and if so will commission a bespoke service with a panel. A lot of problems need to be addressed.

Cllr Phillips: Are the businesses involved with the economic strategy?

Pam Barrett: Currently looking at skills and employability and not traders at the present time. Chamber of Trade is not very active. Looking for providers which was initiated by the Town Council with Learn Devon, but this has not been forthcoming due to various issues.

Clerk to contact Learn Devon again.

Be Buckfastleigh have been asked to be the social provider for Buckfastleigh funded by the NHS. This is where medical intervention may not be needed and patient can be helped with exercise etc. Have been unable to do this as lack of activities to prescribe so trying to address this.

Mark Jeffreys: Is there any way of accessing funding from the LEP?

Pam Barrett: Working on this but must have 3 years of published accounts and strict criteria. Must apply for a minimum of £500,000 which must be spent in a short time frame – 6 months during the winter. Who can deliver this?

### **21/17. A review of Town activities during the year and a look ahead to the future by Councillor Sue Clarke, Mayor of Buckfastleigh**

Cllr Clarke read out her report which will be published on the Town Council website.

### **21/18. Questions and comments from the public: None**

Meeting closed at 7.35 pm.