

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Erin Kohler-Ockmore, John Bailey, Darren Greep, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips, Andy Stokes, Kathy Taylor, Bryony Tilsley and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: None

Press: None

21/143. Apologies: Councillors Ron Fox, Huw Cox, John Nutley (District) and Sarah Parker-Khan (District)

The Chair announced that Councillor Kate Kayley had resigned earlier in the day due to family commitments and conveyed her thanks and best wishes.

21/144. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

21/145. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 21st September 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

Actions from the Town Council Meeting:

- Cllr Patrick confirmed that the planning application for the proposed development at Strode Road had been responded to.
- Minute No. 21/131 deferred – Cllr Clarke to make contact with the police concerning representation at a Town Council meeting.
- Minute No. 21/133 deferred - Cllr Stokes still to meet with Rev Laura McAdam and Cllr Patrick to review the Emergency Plan
- Cllr Patrick reported that there will be funding for rural bus services which should include Buckfastleigh, and Devon Highways are looking at funding for resurfacing work to be carried out to Strode Road/Plymouth Road, but this will not address the ongoing drainage issues. Cllr Parker Khan is looking at this.
- Cllr Clarke – over 16s are still having to pay bus fares to attend sixth form college which places a significant financial burden on families.

21/146. Questions and comments from the public: No members of the public present.

21/147. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports:

No County or District Councillors present.

21/148. Buckfastleigh Primary School Wellbeing Project update:

The Clerk confirmed that the school had now received grant funding for their outdoor learning initiative provisionally approved earlier in the year following receipt of a retrospective grant application.

Decision: Unanimously resolved by all Members present.

21/149. Review of Emergency Plan and Volunteer Recruitment:

Deferred to the November meeting

21/150. Initial discussion for a hot desking facility at the Town Hall:

Discussed at the Town Hall meeting. Further research to be undertaken.

21/151. Restoration and use of the West End telephone box:

Action: It was agreed that the community should be consulted on the use of the redundant telephone kiosk at West End.

21/152. Replacement Town Clock update:

Cllr Bailey confirmed that £1,435 funding had been raised through JustGiving to purchase the replacement town clock.

Decision: Cllr Clarke proposed that the Town Council meets the difference which was seconded by Cllr Greep with all in favour.

Action: Cllr Bailey to liaise with the supplier, Searle's who host the clock and the Clerk.

21/153. Proposal for a Youth Strategy provision music production workshop:

Cllr Clarke works with an organisation in Torbay, called Sound Community, which has a bus with music production equipment to make videos and music with young people. It is supported by trained youth workers and is good at engaging with young people. Cllr Clarke has spoken to some local young people who are interested in music production to assess if this is an initiative that would be popular if available. There is a gap in activity provision, and it is difficult to reach some teenagers in Buckfastleigh. The organisation would need an idea of numbers and it was suggested to run a session in the Easter holidays.

Cllr Stokes agreed that a pilot project should be run to begin with

Action: Cllr Clarke to discuss further with Pam Barrett at Be Buckfastleigh to see how this would fit in with their youth activity provision. It was also suggested that they could potentially deliver this at the Bungalow Youth Project who are training 2 new youth workers.

21/154. Budget Analysis Report 01.09.21 – 30.09.21: Noted

21/155. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.09.21 – 30.09.21: Noted

21/156. Multi-Pay Card Statements July 2021 to September 2021: Noted

21/157. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation July 2021 to September 2021: Noted

21/158. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Clarke reported that she had recently attended the Teignbridge Civic Service.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Moor Otter trail raised nearly £70,000 from the auction of 81 otters which will help fund projects across Dartmoor. This is the second time that this event has been organised by the National Park and has proven to be a very popular project which

attracts more visitors into the area which benefits local businesses.

21/159. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Dartmoor Byelaws Consultation – Cllr Patrick has spoken to the Dartmoor Action Group. He proposed that the Council supports the letter circulated prior to this meeting and sent by them in response to DNP. Members discussed how the moor is used and how this has been accentuated with lockdown for e.g. indiscriminate parking, letting dogs off leads which disturbs livestock and wildlife, using drones and parking in cars after 9.00pm. Dartmoor Action Group believe the changes are too heavy handed and should be reviewed and discussed further.

A second proposal was made by Cllr Stokes not to entirely support all the contents of this letter. He suggested that the Town Council broadly agrees with the contents of the letter but continue to encourage people to respond to the consultation.

Decision: Members voted in favour of supporting the contents of the Dartmoor Action Group letter in principle. Cllrs Phillips and Stokes abstained.

Cllr Patrick reported on the Voice of the Dart, a partnership with other organisations including Exeter University and the Environment Agency. The group have asked Cllr Patrick to provide information about the Buckfastleigh section of the river Dart and have a discussion as to how it affects flooding.

Cllr Stokes had approached Learn Devon to provide IT, Maths and English classes in the town in 2018. Learn Devon had eventually organised IT and employability workshops to be held in the Town Hall this autumn but failed to liaise with the Town Council so there was no publicity and subsequently little interest. Cllr Stokes has asked Learn Devon to reorganise the classes with a timescale.

Cllr Tilsley and the Clerk attended a wildlife projects workshop on Zoom organised by Teignbridge District Council. It was well attended with lots of information about completed projects and ideas.

Action: Cllr Tilsley to circulate some notes.

It was noted that there have been several break-ins recently including at the Share Shed and the Orchard Millennium Green Tea Huts.

21/160 Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

21/161. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to liaise with the Chair

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm