

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Wednesday 18th August 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Erin Kohler-Ockmore, John Bailey, Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips, Andy Stokes, Bryony Tilsley and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: None

Press: None

21/111. Apologies: Councillors Kate Kayley, David Patrick, Huw Cox, Kathy Taylor, and Sarah Parker-Khan (District)

No apologies received from Cllr Darren Greep

21/112. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

21/113. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 28th July 2021 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

Actions from the Town Council Meeting:

- Update by Cllr Bailey on the Town Clock fund
- It was noted that following a request from the Town Council that buses are now switching their engines off when waiting at the bus stop in Woodholme car park

21/114. Questions and comments from the public: No public present.

21/115. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports:

No County or District Councillors present.

21/116. Budget Analysis Report 01.07.21 – 31.07.21: Approved

21/117. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.07.21 – 31.07.21: Approved

21/118. To consider and resolve to adopt the draft Town Council Safeguarding Policy:

Decision: Members agreed to adopt the draft Safeguarding Policy subject to further amendments. Cllr Kayley to bring a proposal to the next meeting. Resolved.

21/119. Review of frequency and location of Town Council meetings:

Town Council meetings have now returned to the Town Hall but cannot continue to meet on a Wednesday due to other bookings. The third Tuesday of every month had been suggested but would be subject to review. The Council may return to two meetings per month subject to demand and workload.

Decision: All Members in agreement to move to a Tuesday with effect from September 2021.

21/120. Annual Town Council participatory budget event update:

A working group agreed that residents may not wish to participate in a face to face event in the Town Hall at this time. A draft community questionnaire has been compiled which will be delivered to all households in the parish and available to complete online in the autumn with a deadline for responses.

The results of this survey will be used to determine spending for the 2022/23 Town Council budget.

Action: Draft questionnaire to be circulated to Members for comment and approval when available.

21/121. Chair's Announcements:

- Buckfastleigh Emergency Plan – to be reviewed at the September meeting and look at hosting a community practice event and volunteer recruitment.
- The Christmas Fair Committee have decided not to have the annual fair again this year due to the difficulties in ensuring social distancing measures in Fore Street.
- It was agreed that the Town Council will again organise a Community Christmas Day meal, using a delivery service with treat bags.
- The new climbing centre at Old Totnes Road will be opening soon. The Chair suggested that this may be a possible venue for a team building event for Councillors, Town Council and Town Hall staff. The new owners are also looking at providing a community gym too.

21/122. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Stokes met with a member of the public regarding the tennis court at Duckspound playing field which is not fit for purpose. Teignbridge District Council will not pay for refurbishment and no funding is available from other organisations. The site could however be multi-purpose for e.g. a basketball and volleyball court, which would attract funding. Cllr Stokes has arranged to meet with a representative of a local company and discuss with Be Buckfastleigh to get advice and the cost for re-surfacing.

Cllr Clarke: This fits in with the Town Council Youth Strategy

Cllr Fox also suggested an outdoor gym and concrete table tennis facility.

Cllr Stokes is also talking to the Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group regarding the creation of allotments/community gardens and composting initiatives. Restrictive covenants on land use in Buckfastleigh has previously prevented progress with this.

21/123 Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

21/124. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to liaise with the Chair

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.