

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Erin Kohler-Ockmore, Huw Cox, Ron Fox, David Patrick, Sylvee Phillips, Kathy Taylor and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

**In attendance:** 5 members of the public. 1 member arrived at 7.20 pm

**Press:** None

**22/216. Apologies:** Councillors John Bailey, Jacquie Felix-Mitchell, Sarah Parker-Khan (County & District) and John Nutley (District)

No apologies received from Cllr Darren Greep

**22/217. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**22/218. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and review actions from this meeting:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

**Actions from the Town Council Meeting:**

- Minute No. 22/207 - Jubilee Committee meeting arranged for Monday 21 February.
- Minute No. 22/206 – a review of funding youth provision in the town will be discussed at this meeting.
- Minute No. 22/207 – a grant from Western Power Distribution for free energy surgeries in the Town Hall has been received. Devon Communities Together are leading three sessions in March, along with Action on Climate in Teignbridge.
- Minute No. 22.212 - Town Clock update – a new bracket is undergoing tests prior to installation

**22/219. Questions and Comments from the Public:**

Two members of the public addressed the meeting: The Methodist Church is going up for sale. They would like it developed as a community hub and have submitted a community right to bid with Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to register it as a community asset. The hub would be a centre to inspire creativity with a community café, but they are looking at different ideas and will consult with the community. Funding is being sought for feasibility studies and consultation from the Architectural Heritage Fund.

The Town Clerk offered to help with publicity.

**22/220. Planning Application 0615/18 Land at Barn Park, Buckfastleigh further discussion regarding the process and response of Dartmoor National Park Authority to this application:**

Cllr Clarke update – no permission was given to publish the DNP's response to the Town Council letter dated 28 January 2022. DNP did not agree to a public meeting but offered a private meeting with some Members of the Council. The decision of the Development Management Committee is unlikely to be overturned but very concerned about the process and lack of consultation e.g. a

s106 agreement has been agreed without any reference to the Town Council. We do feel we were deliberately left out of the process and that there are transparency issues.

Meeting arranged with Kevin Bishop, Chris Hart and Dan Janota.

28 dwellings approved but various issues are yet to be determined e.g. site of contractors compound, number of affordable units may be reduced further. The Town Council will raise a number of questions at this meeting.

There are also concerns regarding water run off previously referred to in objections/concerns. There has not been any response to any of our correspondence.

Member of public: Why has affordable housing allocation been changed?

Cllr Clarke: Why has 45% affordable been reduced to 25%?

Member of public: Access has never been addressed and why through a cul de sac?

Cllr Patrick: Although permission has been agreed, further consultation is to come.

Cllr Cox: A separate application for the details will be submitted. It is an allocated site so will be built on at some point.

Cllr Clarke: Highways have not been consulted recently.

### **22/221. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:**

Cllr Cox: TDC have had to follow due process and an enforcement notice is imminent concerning the removal of the vans near the football club. Occupants have not engaged with officers or accepted any offers.

The Future High Street Fund will be discussed at a TDC committee meeting.

Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT) are rolling out a new initiative called Carbon Cutters which will involve volunteers in each community in addition to the Wildlife Wardens.

**Action:** Cllr Cox to supply TDC recycling information.

### **22/222. To note two vacancies in the office of Town Councillor and review membership of the Personnel Committee:**

When a second letter of resignation is received from Cllr Tilsley there will be two Town Councillor vacancies.

Cllr Cox suggested that the Council hosts a volunteer event due to lack of volunteers now coming forward.

Cllr Fox agreed to join the Personnel Committee.

### **22/223. To discuss youth provision funding in Buckfastleigh:**

Cllr Cox is involved with the Bungalow Youth Project and in communication with the Buckfastleigh Youth Club and TRAYE who facilitate the youth wellbeing cafe. All three organisations have agreed to set up a new youth strategy group. The Town Council currently funds the wellbeing café and outreach service. It is proposed that the youth strategy group applies for a perennial grant as one body but would need the same governance and one bank account. A joint body would also be able to apply to other funding sources.

**Action:** Cllr Cox to report back to the strategy group that the Town Council supports this initiative.

**22/224. To receive the Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report October to December 2021**

Report noted. Cllr Patrick advised that increasing fuel costs are now impacting demand for food banks.

**Action:** Cllr Cox to visit the Buckfastleigh Food Bank to ask if need has increased and do they need Town Council funding.

**22/225. Devon County Council resolution for prioritising 20mph schemes to be progressed in 2022/23:**

Subject to County Councillor support and consultation with all the Town Councillors, an application will be submitted by Cllr Patrick.

**22/226. Smaller Grant Applications:**

**The following organisations were awarded grants:**

- i) Friendship Group - £250 for outings
- ii) Buckfastleigh Cricket Club - £500 for maintenance of machinery
- iii) Participate Arts Wellbeing Workshops - £500 to continue the workshops

A second application for Window Wanderland for £500 submitted by Participate Arts was rejected as it was agreed that this is a retrospective application and notice of this event was not adequate. Future applications will be dependent upon feedback and evaluation. A representative of Participate Arts will be invited to a meeting to talk about the success of these projects.

**22/227. Annual Review of Standing Orders and Direct Debits:** Approved

**22/228. Review of Buckfastleigh Town Council Assets Register 2022:** Reviewed and approved.

**22/229. Budget Analysis Report 01.01.22 – 31.01.22:** Approved

**22/230. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.01.22– 31.01.22:** Noted and approved

**22/231. Chair's Announcements:** None

**22/232. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:**

Voices of the Dart project wish to interview Cllr Patrick about the river Dart, this will be part of a broadcast.

Cllr Phillips: The Valiant Soldier is now providing monthly updates and a new website has been launched.

Cllr Taylor: Cycle South Dartmoor had a meeting and agreed that the best route for a new cycle path is along the A384.

**22/233. Items requiring Urgent Attention:** No items to report.

**22/234. Summary of Key Messages:**

Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

The Chair moved the meeting into a Part II session at 8.50pm to address an item of confidential business.

**22/235. Part II (Private session)**

The meeting returned to Part I and closed at 9.05 pm.