

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

**In attendance:** No public present

**Press:** None

**22/236. Apologies:** Councillors Sarah Parker-Khan (County & District) and John Nutley (District)

No apologies received from Cllr Darren Greep

**22/237. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**22/238. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and review actions from this meeting:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke

### **Actions from the Town Council Meeting:**

- **22/219:** Buckfastleigh Methodist Church – Community Right to Bid - pending
- **22/221:** Recycling information - pending
- **22/223:** Cllr Cox has spoken to TRAYE, Buckfastleigh Youth Club, and the Bungalow Youth Project. All have agreed to a joint funding bid to the Town Council. Will meet to discuss further. It was agreed that by setting up a new youth strategy group best practice could be shared and would provide consistency of approach.
- **22/224:** Buckfastleigh Food Bank – Cllr Kohler-Ockmore to attend a meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- **22/225:** Devon County Council resolution for prioritising 20mph schemes - Cllr Patrick to submit application on behalf of Buckfastleigh.

**22/239. Questions and comments from the public:** None

**22/240. To discuss how the Buckfastleigh community can offer support to the Ukrainian refugee crisis:**

There have been requests from the public to find out ways to help.

A register of rooms is being managed by central government. Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council have information on their websites which people can be signposted to along with official channels such as the Red Cross.

Buckfastleigh Women's Institute is collecting toiletries, nappies etc and The Seed is also collecting goods.

Newton Crisis Aid is a local organisation that supports refugees. There are also animal rescue charities working in Ukraine.

It was agreed to encourage people to donate to charities rather than drive goods over to an area of conflict.

**Action:** Links to organisations which can offer advice and assistance will be put on the Council website.

#### **22/241. Planning Application 0615/18 Land at Barn Park, Buckfastleigh update:**

Members of the Council met with Dartmoor National Park (DNP) representatives on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Questions were submitted in advance. Various issues were discussed including the viability assessment. Barn Park is an allocated site so would be built on at some point. The original expectation to build 45% affordable houses has been decreased to 25%.

The Town Council response to this application should have included a s106 discussion but it was noted that flood mitigation measures were requested.

DNP have offered training as it is acknowledged that planning is a very complex subject.

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore suggested having a core group of Town Councillors that monitor major applications from start to finish.

Cllr Cox: DNP apologised for not sending the agenda for the January meeting and have agreed to review this procedure including listing applications to be discussed.

The Town Council Planning Committee was scrapped due to a lack of power over the decision-making process. A small group would be relevant to look at applications.

DNP stated that they did address the points made by the Town Council but there is no channel for responses to questions raised by the Town Council or the public.

Town Council objections were based on the information available and expressed the views of the public.

Cllr Patrick: We acted in good faith but were swept aside.

**Action:** Cllr Clarke to draft a response

#### **22/242. Police Report:** No report received

#### **22/243. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:**

Cllr Cox: The TDC budget for 2022/23 has been approved and council tax bills have been sent out. A £150 rebate will be available for properties up to Band D.

The Local Government Association is lobbying for new legislation to permit virtual meetings when needed. TDC are holding some hybrid meetings, but Councillors must attend in person.

#### **22/244. To review and comment on the Government consultation – Landscapes Review (National Parks and AONBs):**

Cllr Cox: The government wants to level up National Parks and AONBs. They want to encourage and protect wildlife and ecology but open the National Parks to more people. Members expressed concern that these areas of national importance should not be controlled centrally from London and that the Town Council should respond to this.

**Action:** Cllr Cox to draft a response and circulate for comment

**22/245. To review the District of Teignbridge (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2022:**

Parking concessions for some TDC owned car parks during the winter period have been removed and fees will be increased by 10p.

**22/246. To resolve retrospectively the use of the ring-fenced Community Development Fund for expenditure on preparations for the Platinum Jubilee and an update from the Jubilee Committee meeting held on 21 February 2022:**

**Decision:** Resolved unanimously

Judith gave an update regarding the variety of community events planned for the Jubilee weekend which includes a Fore Street window dressing competition to be judged by Robin Barlow, the HM Deputy Lieutenant of Devon. She confirmed that the bunting for Fore Street and the Town Hall had been ordered but due to road traffic regulations the bunting cannot remain in situ for the summer despite requests from some businesses. As the Town Council has taken ownership of the new bunting certain liabilities must be adhered to for the safety of road users and pedestrians.

**22/247. Review and adopt by resolution the Risk Assessment Management 2022:**

**Decision:** Adopted unanimously

**22/248. Review and adopt by resolution the Statement of Internal Control 2022:**

**Decision:** Adopted unanimously

**22/249. Review of current bank signatories:** The Clerk explained the current communication difficulties regarding changing bank signatories to the Town Council bank account.

**Decision:** Cllr John Bailey to be added as a signatory. Clerk to action.

**22/250. Budget Analysis Report 01.02.22 – 28.02.22:** Resolved

**22/251. Review and resolution of ring-fenced budgets for expenditure in 2022/23:** Resolved

**22/252. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.02.22– 28.02.22:** Resolved

**22/253. Chair's Announcements:**

Three energy workshops are taking place in the Town Hall during March, hosted by Devon Communities Together with a home insulation specialist available too. There was good attendance for the second workshop. South West Water was also available to provide advice at The Living Room.

**22/254. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:**

Cllr Patrick: The Voices of the Dart workshop will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Town Hall.

Cllr Cox: The Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group will be advertising for a part-time Coordinator following a successful funding bid.

Cllr Bailey: The new town clock is ready to install but he is awaiting access.

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore will be representing the Town Council at the Buckfastleigh Food Bank meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March and is an advocate for Voices of the Dart.

**22/255. Items requiring Urgent Attention:** None

**22/256. Summary of Key Messages:** Clerk to liaise with the Chair.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

DRAFT