

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council), 7 members of the public (including 3 Councillor candidates)

**Press:** None

## **22/21. Election of Town Mayor and Chair of the Town Council for 2022/23 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:**

The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor and Chair. Cllr Susan Clarke was nominated by Cllr David Patrick and seconded by Cllr Ron Fox. All members voted in agreement. With no further nominations, Cllr Clarke was duly elected.

## **22/22. Election of Deputy Town Mayor and Deputy Chair of the Town Council for 2022/23 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:**

The Chair invited nominations for the above position and Cllr Erin Kohler-Ockmore was nominated by Cllr Sylvee Phillips and seconded by Cllr Huw Cox. All members voted in agreement. With no further nominations, Cllr Kohler-Ockmore was duly elected.

## **22/23. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Kathy Taylor and Sarah Parker Khan (County & District)

No apologies received from Cllr Darren Greep. Cllr John Bailey had advised prior to this meeting that he would be a little late.

## **22/24. Appointment of the Chair of the Personnel Committee and Members of this Committee:**

Cllr Clarke was nominated as Chair with members Cllrs Kohler-Ockmore, Bailey, Fox, and Patrick.

## **22/25. Review of current meeting structure and to consider the reinstatement of the Highways and Planning Committee and Tourism and Recreation Committee:**

The Clerk explained the possible reinstatement of these committees and that just prior to the onset of the Covid pandemic the Council had changed the meeting structure to Buckfastleigh Matters and Council Matters meetings, but these were only up and running for a short period. Cllr Cox proposed that there is an interest from local businesses and organisations for the Council to facilitate the Tourism meeting which used to meet quarterly.

Cllr Clarke: Different venues could be used.

Cllrs Cox, Phillips, and Clarke were nominated for the Tourism and Recreation Committee.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting for early June with Cllr Cox to chair.

Members discussed the reinstatement of the Highways and Planning Committee but expressed concern about lack of expertise. Cllr Cox said training is available.

Cllr Fox felt that larger planning applications should go to full council, which is the current position. The original committee looked at smaller applications, but it was not felt that the Council had any significant influence over these.

Cllr Patrick: There is a planning review group who comment but suggest that a full meeting is called for significant larger applications.

**Decision:** Members agreed to have a standing planning item on all Town Council agendas.

**22/26. Review and appointment of new signatories to the Town Council bank account:**

Not required as the Chair and Deputy Chair have not changed.

**22/27. The General Power of Competence:** The Clerk reminded Members that as the Council currently does not meet the criteria regarding the number of elected Councillors, the General Power of Competence will not be reinstated until the next election and only if at least two thirds of the Councillors are elected.

**22/28. Public Question Time:** None

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.