

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public and 3 children (regarding a grant application)

Press: None

22/44. Apologies for absence: Cllr Sylvee Phillips and John Nutley (District). Cllr Bailey to arrive late.

22/45. Councillors invited to declare any interests:

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore re Agenda item Nos 8 – Viability of transferring Teignbridge District Council (TDC) owned assets to the Town Council and 12 – Smaller Grant Applications as Treasurer for Friends of Buckfastleigh Library

Cllr Clarke re Agenda item No. 12 – Smaller Grant Applications - Moorland Community Care (personal interest only)

22/46. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting and Town Council Meeting held on 18th May 2022 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke.

Actions from the Town Council Meeting:

- **22/31:** Cllr Clarke to contact Gordon Searle re the opening ceremony of the Town Clock.
- **22/32:** Cllrs Clarke and Patrick to meet with Ian from the Scouts

The Chair moved the meeting to **Agenda Item 12: To consider Smaller Grant Applications.**

A representative of the Pokémon Club gave an update about the club. Currently they have 20 members who enjoy a good social space and hold tournaments. The organisers do not enforce donations to keep the club open to all but need funds to hire the venue, St. Luke's Church. They also hold a lunchtime club at Buckfastleigh Primary School in addition to the Saturday club.

Decision: Members agreed to award £500.

7.10pm All members of the public left the meeting.

22/47. Questions and comments from the public: None

22/48. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Cox gave an update. TDC are looking at sewage discharge, new bus consultations and he attended an opening event for new social houses at Ashburton which was achieved through a Community Land Trust. Teignbridge District Council (TDC) has built 10 properties on their own land over the past 2 years.

Cllr Cox is now Chairing of the Car Park Review group.

TDC is looking at the feasibility of building pod houses on stilts above car parks with solar panels. These will be social housing.

Cllr Bailey arrived at 7.20 pm

Cosy Devon is funding energy efficiency grants.

It was noted that the camper van issue at the football field is still ongoing despite the removal of two vehicles. Cllr Cox to check progress.

22/49. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest:

No applications received to date.

22/50. To comment on the Dartmoor National Park Authority A38 Corridor Access Review:

Cllr Taylor as a representative of Cycle South Dartmoor attended the consultation in Ivybridge. Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) are aware of issues that have been highlighted. The online review access tools are difficult to navigate by the public.

There is already a proposal to provide a safe cycle route following the old road from South Brent to Buckfastleigh, and onward to South Dartmoor School, Ashburton along the B3352 but the path along that section is in a poor condition for both cyclists and pedestrians and needs to be brought up to a usable standard.

Action: Cllr Taylor has already submitted comments to the DNPA review so no further action is currently needed.

22/51. Devon Community Foundation Thrive with Five – Mobilise:

This is only a small fund aimed at improving access for those with mobility issues. It was suggested to ask the 'Bob the Bus' community service in Totnes if they would expand to Buckfastleigh and how much this would cost.

Action: Cllr Patrick to contact and see if they wish to meet to discuss.

22/52. Viability of transferring Teignbridge District Council owned assets to Buckfastleigh Town Council or another organisation within the parish:

Cllr Cox: TDC is looking at the legal searches to assess what can be done with TDC owned land in Buckfastleigh and if it is viable to transfer to the Town Council or another organisation for whatever purpose. Progress is being made but he is aware there will be many organisations who would like to take over the Hamlyns/Duckspond playing fields. There are numerous covenants in place which restricts use.

22/53. Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report January to March 2022 and to consider a request to provide face to face Town Council advice at the new Buckfastleigh Client Support Hub in St. Luke's Church:

Quarterly report from Citizens Advice noted.

Decision: Members agreed that Cllr Kohler-Ockmore and the Town Clerk will provide advice at the Hub as required.

22/54. Proposal to undertake the Beating of the Parish Bounds:

Suggestion by Cllr Cox that we undertake the traditional custom of beating the bounds which is usually done in May. We would however need permission from landowners to walk around the parish.

Action: Cllr Cox to organise.

22/55. To discuss membership of the Devon Association of Local Councils:

The Town Council had previously been a member but cancelled. The Clerk continues to be a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Action: Cllr Cox to circulate copies of DALC newsletters so that Members can review the value of membership before making a decision.

22/56. To consider Smaller Grant Applications:

The following organisations were awarded grants:

- i) Moorland Community Care grant - £250 in appreciation of what the service they provide but decision based on their level of finances and the Town Council's limited funding for grants. Can apply again in this financial year if they wish.
- ii) Friends of Buckfastleigh Library - £500 to support the summer reading challenge
- iii) The Friendship Group - £500. Members unanimously agreed to award an enhanced grant to facilitate activities

22/57. Budget Analysis Report 01.05.22 – 31.05.22: Noted.

22/58. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statements 01.05.22 – 31.05.22: Noted

22/59. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Clarke gave an update about the Jubilee celebrations in Buckfastleigh and was pleased to report that the weekend had gone very well with a variety of activities for all to enjoy.

Cllr Clarke reported that at the July Meeting representatives of the Victoria Park charity will give a presentation to discuss the increasing costs including heating the swimming pool and the viability of staying open. It is not just the pool which will be affected but also the park and youth centre. Victoria Park have started a consultation on how the public feel about this.

22/60. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Fox advised that he had attended an emergency meeting about the future of Victoria Park.

22/61. Items requiring urgent attention: None

22/62. Summary of Key Messages:

Chair to liaise with the Clerk.

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

22/63. Part II (private session)

Meeting returned to Part I and closed at 8.43 pm.