

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Erin Kohler-Ockmore, John Bailey, 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

22/29. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Kathy Taylor and Sarah Parker Khan (County & District) and one Councillor candidate

No apologies received from Cllr Darren Greep.

22/30. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

22/31. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 20th April 2022 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke.

Actions from this meeting:

- **22/08:** Opening ceremony of new town clock pending.

The Chair moved the agenda to item no. 4

22/32. Questions and comments from the public:

Sophie Lovett from Moor Imagination Collective presented a proposal for an Arts Centre at the Methodist Church. They are going ahead with raising funds to bid for the church having successfully secured a Community Right to Bid. There will be an online consultation and 2 public consultations at St. Luke's Church and the Town Hall which will be family friendly with refreshments. There have been positive responses to the questionnaire with 100 received so far.

Cllr Bailey arrived at 7.28 pm.

The group have up until mid-October before the church goes on the open market.

A member of the public raised the lack of public transport in the evening which prevents young people travelling out of the town for entertainment and the lack of weeding in Barn Park

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore confirmed that the Teignbridge Parish Sweeper is currently working in that area.

Cllr Cox: There is no duty for Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to do this and Devon County Council (DCC) have withdrawn funds. The Parish Sweeper carries out some weeding as a courtesy, but it is not part of her remit.

Cllr Nutley confirmed that timetables and Stagecoach come under DCC jurisdiction and not TDC.

It was noted that there will be investment by DCC for public transport, but it is not known if

this consultation will result in funding for rural areas.

Member of public: *It would make more sense to cancel some afternoon trips and put on an evening bus service.*

Cllr Clarke: The public need to lobby for change.

Member of public: *The bus shelters are disgusting, and some buses fail to turn up.*

It was acknowledged that there is a shortage of bus drivers. Suggestion for a community bus.

Cllr Patrick explained what is needed to provide a community bus. Other examples are community interest companies (CIC) and are run by volunteers, but the community would need to look at this to see if there is enough demand. Could Bob the Bus in Totnes include Buckfastleigh?

Cllr Cox suggested having a presentation at a Town Council meeting to look at the feasibility of this suggestion.

Member of public: *Perhaps approach the bus company based in Buckfastleigh?*

Cllr Cox: Unfortunately, this type of service is often not used and there are not enough drivers

Member of public: *What update is there regarding Barn Park?*

The application is returning to Dartmoor National Park (DNP) for a second determination. The Town Council would need to apply to DNP for a Councillor slot at this meeting. Only 3 minutes are permitted for speaking. The application wrongly states there is good public transport in the town which will lower the volume of traffic generated from this development.

Member of public: *The site lies outside of the settlement boundary.*

Ian Pitchford from Buckfastleigh Scouts. The group re-started as a new group 2½ years ago with over 100 scouts and 20 volunteers. The scouts are doing very well, membership has grown but they have no venue so must move from place to place. 64 children are currently on the waiting list, and they would like to expand to have a 14-18 provision. Funds are dependent on parental subscription and limited to capital expenses, so they are unable to organise summer camps and trips. The group is looking for a home, but it is difficult to share with other organisations due to the number of scouts. A venue for sole occupancy is needed with storage and would be used 4 to 5 nights a week.

Ian acknowledged the lack of space in the town and asked if the Town Council would consider taking out a loan for this purpose?

Cllr Clarke: suggestion to apply for grant funding. A wider conversation is however needed regarding the young people of Buckfastleigh.

Action: Cllr Clarke to meet with Ian and David to discuss further.

The Chair moved the meeting to agenda item no. 3

22/33. Presentation by representatives of Participate Arts:

Becci and Gaby presented: The organisation started as a CIC in 2016 and their first project was the Barn Park play park wall mural. They work in schools and with older people focusing on the arts, community and connecting people using different methods.

The Town Council has provided funding for several initiatives including Window Wanderland with workshops in the Town Hall as part of a national initiative. The Council supported the Media Workshop for the school Christmas lights show.

During Covid, Participate Arts moved into providing activity packs – 7,000 in total to children and adults which included a project and a wellbeing exercise. They also did home delivery.

When Covid measures were eased, the Town Council provided funding for face-to-face sessions, and they also received money from the Lottery using the Living Room for workshops, mostly women attend. They also worked alongside mental health providers and took referrals.

Participate Arts collect feedback for evaluation which has been positive. Funding from the Town Council has been a great help.

Hello Summer is now in its 6th year. The Town Council partly funds this annually. Children in Need supported it for the first 3 years.

Hello Summer feels owned by the families in town, and they now have some annual events such as Halloween in the pool changing rooms and their first lantern procession.

Participate Arts is also the host organisation for All Sing Sunday which was a monthly singing event that was intergenerational. Women's wellbeing started again this week and they have now expanded into a three-town project which includes Totnes and Bovey. All events are free.

22/34. Introduction to candidates pending an informal interview process:

Decision: Cllrs Bailey, Phillips, and Cox to do interviews.

22/35. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Nutley: Decarbonisation works to all TDC owned leisure centres is ongoing.

TDC are looking at regeneration plans for Newton Abbot.

Recycling collection is almost back on track following the impact of Covid on this service.

Ukraine refugees – 92 families coming to Teignbridge with 25 arrived. Home visits are ongoing.

TDC Councillors have been undergoing training including safeguarding.

Cllr Cox: Action for Climate in Teignbridge have been undertaking presentations to communities on how to save money and reduce carbon emissions. They are looking for Carbon Cutter wardens for each town.

22/36. Update from the Jubilee Committee meeting held on 25th April 2022:

The Clerk confirmed that preparations are ongoing with the flyer ready for delivery and posters.

22/37. Budget Analysis Report 01.04.22 – 30.04.22: Approved with some clarifications of expenditure.

22/38. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statements 01.04.22 – 30.04.22: Approved

22/39. To receive and note:

- **The Annual Internal End of Year Audit Reports 2021/22**
- **The Accounting Statement of the Annual Return 2021/22** – signed by the Chair and Clerk
- **The Exercise of Public Rights commencing on 20 May 2022 and ending on 14 July 2022**

Cllr Patrick proposed a vote of thanks to Judith for completing a faultless internal audit.

22/40. To approve the renewal of the Town Council's insurance policy:

Decision: Approved

22/41. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Clarke – bunting for the Town Hall afternoon tea will be made by the children at Buckfastleigh Primary School.

Recent visits included the Bungalow Youth Project where she met the youth workers and young people and the scouts where she gave a talk about the different roles of local government and the state.

22/42. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

It was noted that A38 bridge repairs will commence on 19 May.

22/43. Items requiring urgent attention: No urgent items to discuss.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.