

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Fanny Jackson on behalf of the Bungalow Youth Project

Press: None

22/06. Apologies for absence: Cllr Huw Cox

No apologies received from Cllr Darren Greep

22/07. Councillors invited to declare any interests:

Cllr Phillips declared an interest in Agenda No 6 as a trustee of the Bungalow Youth Project

22/08. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16th March 2022 and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke.

Actions from this meeting:

- **22/240:** Links to information as to how we can support Ukrainian refugees is available on the Town Council website.
- **22/241:** Cllr Clarke's summary of the meeting which took place with representatives of Dartmoor National Park concerning the Barn Park planning application has been published on the Council website and social media.
- **22/244:** Cllr Cox has responded to the Government Landscape Review (National Parks and AONBs) on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Bailey confirmed that the new Town Clock is now installed and conveyed his thanks to all those who contributed to the Just Giving fund.

Action: Inga to organise an opening ceremony and liaise with the Chair. Cllr Bailey to confirm details with Searles.

Chair moved to Agenda Item No. 6.

22/09. To consider a Larger Grant Application:

Fanny Jackson reported that the Bungalow Youth Project is open to all young people from 6 to 9 pm on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. On Monday it is girls only, Wednesday is boys only and there is a junior session on Thursday. They are now funding cooked healthy meals which are shared with all those who request it. This is an educational initiative as well as a basic need and is open to all Buckfastleigh young people. Costs amount to £20 x 6 sessions per week which is not sustainable hence this application to the Town Council for funding. It was confirmed that they have a Food Hygiene certificate.

Cllr Clarke acknowledged the good work that has been undertaken by the staff and volunteers.

Fanny Jackson said they have two excellent youth workers from the town. The aim is to provide a youth-led community organisation. They want young people to make decisions about the project and learn skills such as budgeting, buying food, cooking and management.

Members discussed the amount available in the current Larger Grant budget as well as other options. Cllr Fox suggested making an interim grant.

Decision: Members agreed unanimously to award £3,000 funded from both the Larger Grant funds and ring-fenced Wellbeing budget.

Fanny Jackson thanked the Town Council and explained that the young people who attend the Bungalow are creating a film about their experiences which they would like to show in the Town Hall.

22/10. Questions and comments from the public: None

22/11. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Clarke read out a report from Cllr Cox who was unable to attend this meeting:

- Football Club car park update – an enforcement notice has now been served by Teignbridge District Council (TDC) regarding the illegally parked vans in this area. There is no indication that the occupants will leave voluntarily although Housing Officers will try to engage with them again. Court action is now being pursued to obtain an eviction notice.
- A small number of Ukrainian refugees are already in the area and there is an active support group – Ashburton Ukrainian Refugee Support who have a dedicated Facebook page. TDC and the Teignbridge Community Voluntary Service (CVS) are leading on this with TDC carrying out house checks and setting up support systems alongside the CVS and Devon County Council. Unfortunately, there are delays with the Visa process, but it is expected that 40 to 50 families will be hosted within the Teignbridge area although this is not certain.
- Staffing levels at TDC remain a problem but it is hoped that more staff will be recruited soon.
- Housing is still a significant problem with not enough social rented property and increasing demand for eg. the first 8 social rents which were recently released in Ashburton had 341 applicants.

22/12. Update from the Jubilee Committee meeting held on 28th March 2022:

The Clerk confirmed that preparations are ongoing for the Jubilee weekend.

Volunteers will be needed to deliver flyers in May. Cllr Patrick suggested the delivery service available from Royal Mail.

22/13. Budget Analysis Report 01.03.22 – 31.03.22: Approved

22/14. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statements 01.03.22 – 31.03.22: Approved

22/15. Multi-Pay Card Statements January 2022 to March 2022: Approved

22/16. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation January 2022 to March 2022: Approved

22/17. Draft End of Year Accounts and Bank Balances 2021/22 pending audit:

Approved. The Clerk was thanked for her work on the year end accounts.

22/18. To approve the Annual Governance Statement:

Action: Members unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement which was signed by the Chair and Clerk.

22/19. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Clarke confirmed that she is hoping that the funding received from Western Power Distribution may be extended to facilitate a further energy surgery in the autumn.

22/20. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Following on from the contribution made by a member of the public at the Annual Town Meeting, Cllr Taylor suggested looking at alternative transport initiatives.

Cllr Kohler-Ockmore advised that she had met with the Food Bank and that a link is now established.

Cllr Bailey expressed concern regarding the increasing cost of living and how this will affect the community and organisations such as the Town Hall.

Cllr Patrick met with representatives from the Voices of the Dart project which included looking at future water levels, drought risk and designing climate resilient water futures.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.