

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Huw Cox (Chair), John Bailey, Ron Fox, Paul Georghiades, Mark Jefferys, Sylvee Phillips, Leigh Walker-Haworth and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: None

In attendance: 4 members of the public including David Werry and Chris Doidge on behalf of the Buckfastleigh Community News Sheet.

23/198. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Erin Kohler-Ockmore and Sue Clarke.

23/199. Councillors invited to declare any interests:

Cllr Walker-Haworth declared an interest in the Moor Imagination Collective grant application.

23/200. New Town Councillor:

The Chair welcomed the newly co-opted Town Councillor Paul Georghiades.

23/201. To approve and sign the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 18th January 2023 and review actions from this meeting:

Signed by Cllr Cox.

Actions:

- Town Councillor to be appointed to the new youth management committee at the Annual Town Council meeting in May.
- Information from the Electoral Services Commission has been published on the website and social media to advise that anyone who is eligible to vote and intends to do so in person will require photo ID.
- Letter sent to Dartmoor National Park (DNP) to urge them to vote in favour of appealing against the judgement on wild camping on the Moor.
- Remit of the Tourism and Recreation committee to be expanded at the next meeting.
- The reviewed Emergency Plan will be noted at the February Town Council meeting.
- The website business directory is being updated.
- The DNP planning officer has been asked for an update concerning the proposed development at Barn Park – no further information has been forthcoming.
- The Clerk has complained to the bank. Some signatory accessibility has been resolved but further work will be required.

23/202. Questions and comments from the public:

A member of the public asked about Barn Park. It was noted that there have been no updates from the planning authority as noted above.

23/203. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Cox reported that the final Teignbridge District Council budget meeting is next week. Activity is relatively quiet due to the upcoming elections. He has met with an officer regarding the refurbishment of Buckfast play park. It is due to go out to tender with a view to completion in the summer.

Ashburton is getting a 20mph pilot scheme. If it works, it will be rolled out elsewhere by Devon County Council.

Dartmoor National Park Authority wild camping meeting. DNP are going to appeal but this will be a lengthy process.

23/204. To consider Smaller Grant Applications:

- (i) **Wigram Community Association** - community news sheet. David Werry said they occasionally apply for funding from the Town Council, but the cost of printing has increased significantly.

Cllr Georghiades asked about the costs involved. Previously they had a generous bequest and Bradleys Estate Agents used to cover the cost of printing, so they only had to buy the paper. They have found a cheaper printing company, but it is still expensive. Both Searle's and the Buckfastleigh Relief in Need charity partly sponsor the news sheet. Printing costs approximately £270 per month.

Decision: Cllr Cox proposed £500 which was seconded by Cllr Walker-Haworth with all Members in favour.

- (ii) **Participate Arts** - for creative workshops. Defer to the March meeting. Attendance at a meeting is to be a condition to be added to the smaller grants policy.
- (iii) **Moor Imagination Collective** – contribution to administrative costs and venue hire.

Members agreed that the Town Council regularly receives smaller grant applications without any representation from the groups who apply. It would be helpful to have the opportunity to raise questions and have a more informed discussion about why funding is needed.

Decision: To revise the smaller grants policy with immediate effect to include applicant representation at the relevant Town Council meeting. Clerk to advise Participate Arts and Moor Imagination Collective and defer both applications to the March meeting.

23/205. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest:

Salmons Leap planning application 0307/22 – the Clerk expressed dismay that DNP has again failed to bring a significant application to the attention of the Town Council. The site lies just within the parish boundary of Ashburton but as it is adjacent to Dart Bridge Road its impact is more relevant to Buckfastleigh.

Despite weekly lists detailing new planning applications supplied by DNP this application was not noted as it was listed with the wrong name. The Town Council and the community would have wanted the opportunity to comment.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to DNP to complain about not being consulted as a statutory stakeholder.

23/206. Buckfastleigh Post Office update:

Buckfast Post Office will continue to remain open under new management. The Post Office have now taken possession of a van with a view to providing an outreach mobile service to Buckfastleigh and outlying villages, but this is still in the planning process and has not been formally agreed.

23/207. Review of Buckfastleigh Emergency Plan update:

Noted with thanks to the Town Clerk and Town Ranger.

23/208. To consider the Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2040:

The Chair proposed that members attend a separate meeting to discuss and formulate a response.

23/209. To consider the Dartmoor National Park draft Housing Supplementary Planning Document:

As above.

Decision: Members to meet with the Clerk on Wednesday 1st March at 7.00pm in the Town Hall

23/210. To note the election for Town and Parish Councils on Thursday 4th May 2023:

Clerk to circulate information when received from Teignbridge District Council.

23/211. To receive the Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report October to December 2022:

Noted. The Clerk explained the service at the weekly Town Hall for the benefit of Cllr Georghiades. Cllr Cox to circulate a national Citizens Advice report.

23/212. Annual Review of Standing Orders and Direct Debits:

Decision: Approved

23/213. Budget Analysis Report 01.01.23-31.01.23: Noted

23/214. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.01.23-31.01.23: Noted

23/215. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Cox – at the recent Town Hall Trustees meeting it was agreed that a rolling upgrade of the rooms, e.g. replacement ceiling panels and redecoration would be undertaken. A further meeting is needed to approve expenditure.

23/216. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Phillips asked about Coronation plans.

This matter will be discussed at the Tourism and Recreation meeting next week.

23/217. Items requiring urgent attention: None

23/218. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to prepare.

Meeting closed at 7.58 pm.