

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.20pm.

Present: Councillors: Huw Cox, Sue Clarke, John Bailey, Paul Georghiades, Emma Fitzpatrick, Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: Cllrs John Nutley and Stuart Rogers (Teignbridge District Council),

Press: None

23/35. Apologies for absence: Cllr Leigh-Haworth

23/36. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

23/37. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19th April 2023 and review actions from this meeting:

Signed by Cllr Cox.

No actions.

23/38. Questions and comments from the public: No public present.

Cllr Stuart Rogers from Ashburton Post Office reported that Post Offices are closing nationally. He is lobbying the Post Office, MP, and Town Council to have a Post Office again in Buckfastleigh. He would like to convert a decommissioned Post Office van and has a grant to refurbish it as a mobile unit. There could be a Post Office service once a week in Buckfastleigh. It is estimated that this would cost £500 per month per community for one 2 hours visit per week.

He was asked to provide more details and costs including the salaries, petrol, insurance etc for the Finance Committee. A full service would be provided including banking.

It is acknowledged that other traders are suffering due to the lack of a Post Office in town and the support of a Chamber of Trade would help this initiative.

23/39. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

There will be a full meeting of the new Teignbridge District Council (TDC) on Tuesday 23rd May.

Cllr Clarke asked about the refurbishment of the tennis courts which will be met from funding by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and the proposed charge to use this facility.

Cllr Nutley: It is hoped that clubs will use the court in addition to individuals, but it is unclear how the revenue will be spent. There will be ongoing maintenance and vandalism costs.

Cllr Clarke: This was a free resource which has been underfunded and it is a pity it will not be a multi-sports facility.

Cllr Bailey: The Town Council has had no input with this, no clubhouse exists, and it will be susceptible to vandalism as there is no one to monitor it. The Council should have been consulted.

Cllr Nutley confirmed the work has been signed off.

Cllr Fitzpatrick asked how long it had been a done deal?

Cllr Fox: If the LTA had not made this offer, would the court have deteriorated further?

Cllr Nutley to provide further details.

Cllr Clarke: Local young people want multi-sports facilities.

Cllr Bailey: It is a small improvement in the middle of a large, neglected area so it could have been adapted to a multi-sports facility.

Cllr Phillips: Can the court be extended to other uses?

Cllr Bailey would like to register his disgust that the Town Council was not consulted.

Cllr Georghiades would like to know how TDC will maintain the site surrounding the refurbished court?

Cllr Bailey: No one will be managing the site and yet there are other clubs that may have assisted with this.

23/40. Co-option of Town Councillor Vacancies:

The Clerk confirmed that following the election there are currently four vacancies which will be advertised from Thursday 18th May.

23/41. To review and adopt the revised Members' Code of Conduct:

The Clerk advised that the Town Council Code of Conduct had been adopted in 2012 in accordance with new legislation at that time, but a more comprehensive version of the same legislation is now needed.

Decision: Cllr Georghiades proposed the adoption of the revised document and Cllr Cox seconded this motion with all Members in favour.

23/42. Buckfastleigh Police Report for April 2023: No report provided.

23/43. To consider the adoption of a new Cybersecurity policy to ensure the protection of Town Council data and personal information:

The Chair suggested it would be useful for councillors and staff to attend some training on cybersecurity with other councils following recommendation by the Internal Auditor to have a dedicated policy.

Action: Clerk to draft up a policy and circulate for comment and adoption.

23/44. Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report January to March 2023:

Clerk to ask if the quarterly report is for both the Town Hall and the Food Bank hub or just the weekly outreach session in the Town Hall? It was noted that the rate of poverty is increasing and that this is an essential service for the community.

23/45. Budget Analysis Report 01.04.23 – 30.04.23: Noted

23/46. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statements 01.04.23 – 30.04.23: Noted

23/47. To note the renewal of the Town Council's insurance policy: Noted.

23/48. To receive quotes for two replacement parish noticeboards:

Members agreed that two x one-door lockable replacement noticeboards are required for the Buckfast and Station Road car park sites.

Decision: Quote B at a total cost of £1,188.77 (inclusive of VAT) was unanimously selected.

23/49. Chair's Announcements:

No matters to report.

23/50. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

There have been reports that scaffolding which has been attached to the A38 bridge over Old Totnes Road has been in place for some time and for an unknown purpose. It is believed that the maintenance access door to the bridge is being used by unauthorised individuals.

Action: Town Ranger to contact National Highways regarding possible trespass.

Cllr Phillips: The Coronation Cocktail evening in the Valiant Soldier was very successful. The pub element has not been open since 1965, but temporary event licences are now permitted. The bar will be open again on Saturday 24th June to tie in with the Orchard Millennium Green fun day.

Cllr Clarke: Buckfastleigh Primary School are planning to install a defibrillator, but the location has not yet been identified and whether it will be available for community use too? The school have asked if the Town Ranger can provide training and maintain it.

The Clerk suggested that the Town Ranger would be happy to arrange training but perhaps the school's own Health and Safety officer would be better placed to maintain it due to access and safeguarding issues.

Cllr Clarke: There have been increasing incidents of reports of anti-social behaviour on the bench outside The Seed and that this needs to be reported to the police.

Action: Clerk to check archive for the extent of the designated alcohol-free zone in the centre of Buckfastleigh.

23/51. Items requiring Urgent Attention:

Dartmoor National Park Parish Members ballot – deadline 31st May 2023. Members identified two candidates for the ballot to represent Buckfastleigh.

Action: Clerk to submit completed ballot paper signed by the Chair.

23/52. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to action.

Meeting closed at 8.24 pm.