

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Huw Cox (Chair), Erin Kohler-Ockmore, John Bailey, Sue Clarke, Ron Fox, Paul Georghiades, Mark Jeffery, Sylvee Phillips, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: 1 member of the public

Press: None

23/05. Apologies for absence: Cllr Leigh-Haworth

23/06. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

23/07. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15th March 2023 and review actions from this meeting:

Proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Kohler-Ockmore with all Members agreed. Signed by the Chair.

Actions:

- The first meeting of the new Youth Forum will take place in June and will have police representation.
- Quotes for the replacement notice board at Buckfast will be brought to the next meeting.

23/08. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 12th April 2023:

Noted. Cllr Georghiades appointed as Chair at this meeting. There will be a Grants report at every Finance meeting.

23/09. Questions and comments from the public:

A member of the public enquired as to why the Tourism and Recreation meeting is not a standing item on this agenda?

The Chair confirmed that this committee has not met since February so there were no items to report.

23/10. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:

No matters to report due to the forthcoming elections.

23/11. Buckfastleigh Police Report for March-April 2023: Noted

23/12. To review the perennial grant agreement between Buckfastleigh Town Council and Victoria Park with particular reference to Clause 8:

Cllr Cox proposed to remove Clause 8 but appoint a councillor to attend some Victoria Park meetings and report back to the Town Council.

Decision: Proposal resolved unanimously.

It was noted that Cllr Clarke may be appointed as a trustee at the forthcoming Victoria Park AGM.

23/13. Budget Analysis Report 01.03.23 – 31.03.23: Noted

23/14. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statements 01.03.23 – 31.03.23: Noted

The Clerk highlighted ongoing problems with the bank. Despite numerous communications, these remain unresolved.

23/15. Multi-Pay Card Statements January 2023 to March 2023: Noted.

23/16. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation January 2023 to March 2023: Noted.

23/17. To approve the draft End of Year Accounts and Bank Balances 2022/23 pending audit:

The Clerk explained the end of year, internal and external audit process for the benefit of the meeting.

Decision: Cllr Georghades proposed that the draft accounts are approved for audit. Cllr Clarke seconded with all Members in agreement.

23/18. To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23:

Decision: Proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Georghades with all in favour. Statement signed by the Chair and Town Clerk.

23/19. Chair's Announcements:

Cllr Cox attended the Civic Service and Volunteer Day at Ashburton.

At the Buckfastleigh Residents' Association AGM held on 18th April, Cllr Cox met the Teign Housing CEO who offered to attend a Town Council meeting.

Cllr Cox expressed his thanks to all the Town Councillors who have served over the last 4 years or less.

23/20. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Clarke attended an online meeting with the Police and Crimes Commissioner. She is happy to attend these when available.

Catalytic converter thefts are being committed by out of county gangs. The police have given assurances that this is a priority due to the cost and distress this crime causes to vehicle owners.

Cllr Clarke also raised the lack of a dedicated PCSO for Buckfastleigh and would like a police youth intervention officer to visit the youth clubs.

The Chair explained the difference between operations and local policing and how this is recorded. He highlighted the reduction in officers and PCSOs for Devon.

Cllr Phillips has written to Devon County Council about the number of potholes and state of the roads within the parish.

The Valiant Soldier is holding a Coronation celebration evening on Saturday 6th May at 6.30pm.

The revised Emergency Planning leaflet is currently being delivered to households in

Buckfastleigh and Buckfast. A resident has complained about the cost. The Clerk advised that printing costs were less than £250.00 for delivery to the entire parish. There were no design costs as it was created in-house.

Cllr Clarke stressed that if one life is saved because of this leaflet then it is money well spent.

Cllr Jeffery: a Gardening for Wildlife brochure is available for free to print.

23/21. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

23/22. Summary of Key Messages:

Clerk to action.

Meeting closed at 8.08 pm.