

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors Sue Clarke (Acting Chair), John Bailey, Paul Georghiades, Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips, Leigh Walker-Haworth, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

**In attendance:** Cllr Stuart Rogers (Teignbridge District Council) and J. Hughes

**Press:** None

**23/168. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Huw Cox

**23/169. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**23/170. To approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 and review actions from these meetings:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Clarke.

**23/171. Questions and comments from the public:**

Stuart Rogers, as Ashburton Postmaster, stated that banks are concerned about an increasing number of scams in Dartmoor communities and there is a need to raise awareness. Anti-scaming workshops will take place in the new year. Scammers are targeting people who are on their own and not digitally connected.

Cllr Rogers confirmed that funding has been secured for a warm meal to be provided once a week for residents who are struggling financially but need a venue which is equipped to do catering.

**Action:** Cllr Clarke, the Clerk and Cllr Rogers to meet and discuss further.

Cllr Rogers is waiting for pupil premium numbers at the schools. No timescale has been agreed yet.

**23/172. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:**

Discussed Teignbridge District Council (TDC) representation at Dartmoor National Park (DNP) meetings. Cllr Rogers advised that Cllr Nutley has questions and concerns regarding the Timbers Road planning application.

Cllr Bailey: Some Buckfastleigh residents have attended Dean Prior meetings as the site lies within their parish.

Cllr Rogers to look at a combined approach between the authorities.

**23/173. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest – Town Council representation at the DNP Development Management Committee on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – development of land at Rocky Lane and Timbers Road junction planning application:**

Cllr Georghiades will represent the Town Council at this meeting with support from Cllr Walker-Haworth. The Town Council is aware that there are numerous objections, but not all residents are against this proposed development. It was agreed that the points in the Town Council response need

to be highlighted and addressed by the planning authority.

**23/174. To review the Police Report for November 2023:**

An increase in incidents was noted. Cllr Clarke has met with the local PCSO to discuss how information is collated on this report. Statistics must meet a recorded crime target for resources to be increased for Buckfastleigh.

**Action:** Clerk to invite the PCSO to a Town Council meeting.

**23/175. Feedback from Buckfastleigh Youth Forum meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023:**

Deferred as no report from the last meeting received.

**23/176. Review of Financial Regulations**

Adopted unanimously.

**23/177. Review of Assets, Risk Assessment, and Internal Control 2023/24:**

All three documents adopted unanimously.

**23/178. Budget Analysis Report 01.11.23 – 30.11.23:**

It was agreed to offer the £500 Mayor's Good Cause Fund to the Buckfastleigh Foodbank.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange.

**23/179. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statements 01.11.23 – 30.11.23:** Noted

**23/180. Recommendation from the Personnel Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to adopt the reviewed Buckfastleigh Town Council Health and Safety Policy:**

Adopted

**23/181. Recommendation from the Personnel Committee hold on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to adopt the reviewed and amended Buckfastleigh Town Council Lone Worker Policy:**

Adopted

**23/182. Chair's Announcements:**

Christmas Fair – unfortunately the weather was very poor, so numbers were down a little, but residents and visitors nevertheless enjoyed the evening.

**23/183. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting:**

Cllr Walker-Haworth: Moor Imagination Collective's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to purchase the Methodist Church has been successful. The new community space and café will be opening in some form in May with renovations due to start in the new year. Congratulations were conveyed from the Town Council.

The Wintertide event held at Devonian was very successful and well attended.

Cllr Georghiadis would like to see a new Chamber of Trade in the town.

**23/184. Summary of Key Messages:**

Clerk to action

**23/185. Motion to move into a Part II (private) session to discuss one item of confidential business in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.**

Meeting returned to Part I and closed at 8.10 pm.

DRAFT