

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Paul Georghiades (Deputy Chair), John Bailey, Joanna De Groot-Marzec, Sylvee Phillips, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Sue Clarke, Steven Burch, Ron Fox, and Leigh Walker-Haworth. Cllr John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council)

In attendance: Mary Ridgway, Teigbridge District Council Enabling Officer, Mandy Goddard, Devon Communities Together, Cllr Stuart Rogers (Teignbridge District Council) and 2 members of the public

Press: None

24/01. Introduction and Welcome to the Town Meeting:

Councillor Paul Georghiades welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/02. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 19th April 2023:

Minutes approved and signed by the Deputy Chair.

24/03. A review of the Town activities during the year and a look ahead to the future by Cllr Sue Clarke, Mayor of Buckfastleigh:

The Mayor's Report by Councillor Clarke had been circulated with the agenda to this meeting and will be published on the website.

Cllr Georghiades summarised the report to the meeting in the absence of Cllr Clarke:

- The sad and unexpected loss of Councillor Huw Cox in January 2024 who served as Mayor and Chair of Buckfastleigh Town Council and as a Teignbridge District Councillor.
- The 2023 election was uncontested with Cllrs Erin Kohler-Ockmore and Mark Jefferys not standing for re-election. Welcome to new councillors Steven Burch and Joanna De Groot-Marzec who joined in 2024.
- To note that 46% of the 2023/24 Town Council budget was spent on grants directly for services provided by other organisations such as the weekly Citizens Advice Outreach service in the St. Luke's Community Hub, the Library, and annual Christmas Fair. This does not include other services funded directly from the budget such as the Hello Seasons programme and free Christmas meals which this year, following a generous donation, extended to Easter.
- The presentation of Commemorative Coronation mugs by Cllr Huw Cox to both primary school and home-schooled children who requested them in May 2023.
- The first meeting of the Youth Forum, a collaboration of youth groups and organisations in the town.
- Exciting developments in the town including the opening of some new businesses and the Winterfest at Devonian which may be the start of commercial regeneration.

- Thanks to the Town Councillors, Town Council and Town Hall staff and in particular the steadfast and valued commitment of Judith Hart, our Town Clerk who has reached her 20th year of service to Buckfastleigh.

24/04. Questions and comments from the public: None

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Meeting closed at 7.10 pm and proceeded to the April Town Council meeting.