

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), John Bailey, Steven Burch, Joanna De Groot Marzec, Ron Fox, Paul Georghiades, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Cllr Paul Georghiades (Deputy Chair) chaired the meeting.

In attendance: Cllr Stuart Rogers (Teignbridge District Council). PCSO Tamzin Campbell-Moseley and 7 members of the public

Press: None

25/188. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Jack Major (Teignbridge District Council) and John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council)

Councillors invited to declare any interests: Cllr Sylvee Phillips declared an interest regarding land and declared a holding interest should this be raised in this meeting.

25/182. To approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15th January 2025 and review actions from these meetings and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by the Deputy Chair Paul Georghiades.

No outstanding actions.

25/183. Police report with attendance by PCSO Tamzin Campbell-Moseley.

The Police report was presented by Tamzin. The next Police Surgery is being held at the Town Hall on Thursday 27th February.

It was reported that recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour are low in Buckfastleigh but there is more crime on a similar scale to Ashburton. The Police encourages people to report incidents, and it should be noted that several crime numbers may relate to the same incident.

Sue Clarke raised how civil protection orders are enforced?

Tamzin explained that if a CPO is breached this can lead to arrest. Currently she has no concerns following a spike in crime during October and November.

Sue Clarke also highlighted concerns regarding an increase in crime against women and that there will be domestic abuse training session in the Town Hall on Thursday 6th March.

Tamzin and her colleague PC Claire Hurrell was thanked on behalf of the Town, and particularly their work with young people.

25/184. Questions and comments from the public.

Barbara Greenway on behalf of The Wool Hub circulated their new and informative wool trail leaflet for visitors.

Feedback forms may go online.

25/185. To consider smaller grant applications.

WoolFest Buckfastleigh 2025 – The WoolFest is now in its second year and will be held on Sunday 25th May at the Orchard Millennium Green.

Sue Clarke proposed £500 which was seconded by Sylvee Phillips with all Members in favour.

Patchwork Quilt Challenge – The group meets at St. Luke’s Church 8 times a year with room hire costs of £40 per booking. Other costs are £100 per roll of wadding used to fill the quilts. 14 people attended the last session. It costs approx. £750 to run the group for 3 years.

John Bailey proposed £500, motion seconded by Steven Burch with all in favour.

The Valiant Mummings of Buckfastleigh – A tradition folk group that perform on-street plays at local events and festivals. Members source and make their own costumes but are requesting funds towards to a special Easter 2025 production of “Noah and the Flood.”

Paul Georghiades proposed £250 which was seconded by Sue Clarke – All in favour.

25/186. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to the meeting.

Cllr Stuart Rogers is now Shadow Portfolio Holder for Housing.

Dartmoor National Park, Teignbridge District Council (TDC) and the Community Land Trust met to discuss ways to tackle the housing problem. TDC are working with Cllr Phillips regarding the possibility of developing her land.

Cllr Palethorpe (TDC) is visiting Buckfastleigh on the 19th March to meet with the Town Councillors regarding assets, land and car parks within the parish.

There was a suggestion to mark out alternative sports areas at the tennis courts at the Duckspound playing field and concerns were raised regarding the state of the car park that is need of repair. The lights at the tennis courts are also no longer available.

Cllr Stuart Rogers undertook a walk about prior to this meeting and noted leaves and rubbish.

The Ring and Ride Bus Service is due to start in the spring. Two buses will benefit 6 wards run by Newton Abbot Community Transport with a door-to-door return service. Cost to be agreed. The service needs drivers and administrative staff.

A new Recycling officer has been appointed who will be visiting schools to educate young people about the importance of recycling and to pass this message onto their families.

A new Tetrapax Recycling facility is coming to Buckfastleigh in the spring.

The refund of monies spent as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was discussed.

A new 20mph speed limit will be introduced following a pilot project in Ashburton and 3 other Devon communities but no timescale yet.

25/187. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest.

None.

25/188. To receive the Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report October to December 2024.

Concerns were noted regarding the reduction in funding and what the service will be in the future. Ashburton Town Council does not fund a similar service in their parish leading to some of their residents using the Buckfastleigh which was deemed unfair.

Cllr Stuart Rogers gave an update concerning the Household Support Fund and that vulnerable individuals can be directed to him for advice if required.

25/189. The Buckfastleigh UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

Town Council staff: Judith, Gary and Clair together with Town Councillor Steven Burch were thanked for their work and due diligence regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Buckfastleigh Gateway Project which includes the installation of new street furniture and the refurbishment of the Visitors Centre at the Valiant Soldier Museum. Judith was also thanked for engagement of the work and managing funds. It is hoped that improvements to the town will encourage new interest from visitors to the area.

A competition for naming the Ram was suggested by Cllr Clarke.

25/190. English Devolution White Paper Update.

A White Paper slideshow was shown at the meeting.

25/191. Budget Analysis Report 01.01.25 – 31.01.25

Noted.

25/192. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.01.25 – 31.01.25.

Noted.

25/193. Chair's Announcements.

Cllr Sue Clarke attended a business breakfast at Buckfast Abbey where she suggested a Monk's Legacy for the Town. They met with the Business Manager and other organisations, for example, a cyber security company.

The availability of TDC car parking permits for parent drop-off and collection was raised and it is alleged that Buckfastleigh Primary School has not received any. Permits would also benefit the van delivery to the Social Supermarket at the Town Hall which has received fines whilst dropping off supplies on Tuesday afternoons.

There has not been any progress regarding the building of affordable homes in Buckfastleigh. Cllr Sue Clarke may write a letter in a personal capacity.

25/194. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting.

Cllr Sylvee Phillips recently attended the Teignbridge District Council Planning Café.

Cllr Joanna De Groot-Marzec raised the 20mph proposal for all Buckfastleigh which would exclude Strode Road and Plymouth Road. The Police can enforce the limit if caught, but there will not be any speed cameras.

A public consultation will take place in the summer.

25/195. Items requiring Urgent Attention.

None.

25/196. Summary of Key Messages.

Town Clerk to do.

Cllr Georghiades as Chair of this meeting called a Part II (private session) regarding a personnel matter.

The public and District Councillors left the meeting.

Meeting returned to Part I and closed at 8.50pm