

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), John Bailey, Steven Burch, Paul Georghiades, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: Cllrs Stuart Rogers and Jack Major (Teignbridge District Council) and 3 members of the public representing the Orchard Millennium Green (OMG)

Press: None

25/197. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips and Joanna De Groot Marzec and John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council)

Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

25/198. To approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19th February 2025 and review actions from these meetings and review actions from this meeting:

Minutes signed by Deputy Chair Paul Georghiades.

No outstanding actions.

25/199. Newly co-opted Town Councillor Welcome.

Deferred to the next meeting.

25/200. Questions and comments from the public.

The Town Council were informed that the Christmas Fair Committee is having difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteers. Representatives of the Orchard Millennium Green Committee are interested in taking over the organising and running of the fair but this should be addressed between the two organisations which are separate to the Town Council. The Council only provides funding. Both parties need to arrange a meeting to talk this proposal through.

Water Day update – The Clerk explained the purpose of the day and what has been discussed and booked so far. A site visit with OMG volunteers will be arranged shortly, and it was agreed that Judith will liaise with the trustees to ensure compliance for eg. Public Liability insurance and a temporary events licence.

3 members of the OMG left at 7.23pm.

25/201. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting.

Cllr Jack Major confirmed that there is a provisional agreement regarding the painting of a mural to the Teignbridge District Council owned Plymouth Road bus shelter. The Clerk explained that the mural would include wildflowers, landscape and possibly a sheep to compliment the current theme of the area.

Cllr Stuart Rogers informed the meeting that in relation to the caravans at Holy Trinity Church,

an encampment needs written evidence in the form of a diary to build a case against the occupants of the area for enforcement to be pursued.

Devon County Council, Teignbridge District Council and the Police are working together but must have the written evidence to support the case.

Citizens Advice Outreach service at the Friday Food Bank hub – residents of Ashburton are attending both the Buckfastleigh weekly outreach session and the Newton Abbot office for advice and support. There is no Citizens Advice service in Ashburton and their Town Council does not contribute any funding. It is believed that Buckfastleigh clients may be missing out or having to wait longer for an appointment due to the demand from Ashburton.

Cllr Rogers reported that Ashburton Town Council will not consider an application for funding to this effect until 2026/27 due to other financial demands on their budget which may be too late for this service to continue. Quarterly reports evidence need in both communities.

Action: Clerk to raise this concern with Ashburton Town Council

New Ring and Ride service for the rural communities. Cllr Rogers reported that progress is ongoing. A door-to-door return service to Newton Abbot will cost between £6.50 - £7.00. Costs to travel further afield such as Torbay Hospital have yet to be addressed.

Free parking in TDC owned car parks for events in Buckfastleigh. It was brought to the attention of the Town Council that other communities had benefitted from free parking to support their Christmas Fairs, but Buckfastleigh have never been offered this option.

Action: Clerk to send a list of events to Cllr Stuart Rogers.

The Chair will ask both primary schools if they can be involved with the Water Day event and the naming of the Ram sculpture on the Plymouth Road junction was also discussed,

25/202. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest.

None.

25/203. To review the Police Report for February 2025.

Noted.

Action: Clair Stevens, Deputy Town Clerk, to calculate crime figures over 12 months.

25/204. Buckfastleigh Water Day Update.

Bought forward to item 25/200

25/205. Christmas Fair Update.

Bought forward to item 25/200

25/206. English Devolution White Paper Update.

No further updates to report.

25/207. To review and approve ring-fenced reserves to carry over to 2025/26.

Proposed by Cllr Paul Georgiades, seconded by Cllr Steven Burch with all Members in agreed.

Decision: Clerk to action.

25/208. Budget Analysis Report 01.02.25 – 28.02.25.

Noted.

25/209. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.02.25 – 28.02.25.

Noted.

25/210. Chairs Announcements.

Chair, Cllr Sue Clarke attended the Quilting Group following an invitation to view the work of the group.

Cllr Clarke is acting as an advocate for a local family in her capacity of Chair and will be visiting Citizens Advice outreach service to assist a resident.

25/211. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting.

None.

25/212. Items requiring urgent attention.

None

25/213. Summary of Key Messages

Clerk to arrange and include thanks from the Town Council to Cllr Stuart Rogers for his work towards securing a new scout hut at the Duckspond playing field subject to the required permissions and funding.

Meeting closed at 8.27pm.