

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Cllrs Stuart Rogers (Devon County Council & Teignbridge District Council), John Nutley and Jack Major (Teignbridge District Council) and 4 members of the public

Press: None

25/26. Election of Town Mayor and Chair of the Town Council for 2025/26 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:

The Clerk opened the meeting and invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor and Chair. Cllr Sue Clarke was nominated by Cllr John Bailey and seconded by Cllr Joanna De Groot-Marzec. With no further nominations Cllr Clarke was duly elected with all members in agreement.

25/27. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Paul Georghiadès and Sylvee Phillips

Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

25/28. Election of Deputy Town Mayor and Deputy Chair of the Town Council for 2025/26 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:

The Chair invited nominations for the above position and Cllr Paul Georghiadès was nominated in his absence by Cllr Clarke which was seconded by Cllr Bailey with all members in agreement. With no further nominations, Cllr Paul Georghiadès was duly elected and will sign his Declaration in the presence of the Clerk outside of this meeting.

25/29. Appointment of the Chair of the Finance Committee and Members of this Committee:

Cllr Georghiadès was proposed as Chair with all Members in agreement. Cllrs Bailey, Burch, Clarke and Fox were appointed to this committee.

25/30. Appointment of the Chair of the Tourism, Recreation and Community Development Committee and Members of this Committee:

Cllr Burch was proposed as Chair with all Members in agreement. Cllrs Bailey, Clarke, De Groot-Marzec and Phillips were appointed to this committee.

25/31. Appointment of the Chair of the Personnel Committee and Members of this Committee:

Cllr De Groot-Marzec was appointed as Chair with all Members in agreement and Cllrs Clarke, Georghiadès, and Phillips as committee members.

25/32. Appointment of Members to the Planning Review Group:

Cllrs Bailey, Burch, Fox, and Phillips were appointed as members of this group. All Councillors to be included in the circulation of planning applications which require a response.

25/33. Review and appointment of new signatories to the Town Council bank account

No further action required. Councillors Bailey, Clarke, Georghiadis and Fox are the current signatories.

25/34. Appointment to the following organisations:

- Victoria Park and Swimming Pool (to represent the Town Council). Cllrs Clarke and Fox will continue in their capacity as trustees.
- Bungalow Youth Management Committee (1 Councillor). Cllr Phillips appointed.
- Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Wellbeing Centre League of Friends (1 Councillor). Cllr De Groot-Marzec appointed.

25/35. To adopt the General Power of Competence:

To achieve the General Power of Competence the Town Council must ensure that it meets the conditions of eligibility as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

The Clerk advised Members that as the Council currently does not meet the criteria regarding the number of elected Councillors, the General Power of Competence will not be reinstated until the next election and only if at least two thirds of the Councillors are elected.

25/36. To review and adopt the Town Council Treasury and Investment Policy:

Decision: Resolved

25/37. To review and adopt the Town Council Biodiversity Policy and receive a summary of how the policy has been implemented in the past 12 months:

Decision: Resolved

Members noted the contents of the summary document and agreed that Judith Hart, the Town Clerk should act as the Town Council representative to the Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group.

A representative of the group thanked Cllr De Groot-Marzec for her attendance at their recent meeting and agreed to work with Judith regarding the contents of future reports.

25/38. Public Question Time: No questions raised.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm and proceeded to the May Town Council Meeting