

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 which followed the Annual Town Meeting at 7.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr Jack Major & Cllr Stuart Rogers (Teignbridge District Council), 2 members of the public, Tristan Snowsill candidate for the Devon County Council elections for Ashburton and Buckfastleigh and 1 child

**Press:** None

**25/05. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Ron Fox, Sylvee Phillips and Steven Burch and John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council)

**Councillors invited to declare any interests:** Cllr John Bailey declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item. 21 regarding the Buckfastleigh Rangers Football Club larger grant application.

**25/06. To approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and review actions from this meeting:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Sue Clarke.

**Actions:**

- Questions have been raised by District Councillors and the Town Clerk as to why Ashburton Town Council does not fund its own Citizens Advice Outreach Service as there is clearly a demand, and clients have been using the service which is funded by Buckfastleigh Town Council.
- The Clerk has sent a list of forthcoming events to Cllr Rogers and it is hoped that free parking in the car parks will be facilitated by the District Council to support these.
- Cllr Clarke is looking at a “name the ram” competition through the two primary schools and a display of artwork connected to the Buckfastleigh Water Day event in July.

**25/07. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 including the draft End of Year Accounts 2024/25:**

Noted. Recommendations from this meeting to be discussed under a Part II session at the end of this meeting.

**25/08. Newly co-opted Town Councillor Welcome:**

Deferred

**25/09. Questions and comments from the public:**

Representatives of the Bungalow Youth Project Dungeons and Dragons Club were given the opportunity to present their larger grant application.

The club has now been running for a year, there is a waiting list and interest from younger children to join. The club supports some children during the transition period from primary to

secondary school who may be finding this difficult.

The Bungalow is regarded as a safe community space by children who may be feeling isolated, and the club is a stepping stone for some young people to access the main provision already available. Parent/carer and testimonials from users were noted by Members.

The Lottery award to the Bungalow ends in December 2025 so it is not known if and how the D&D group will be able to continue. £5,000 has been allocated for summer activities.

Cllr Clarke noted that this club is useful to a certain demographic of young people who may not necessarily participate in mainstream activities such as team sport.

The applicants were advised that a decision would be made later in the meeting and sent in writing shortly thereafter.

The applicants left the meeting.

**25/10. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:**

Cllr Major confirmed that the Household Support Fund closed on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The next round will be announced after the May Devon County Council election.

There is no news regarding the next round of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

**25/11. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest:**

None.

**25/12. To receive the Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report January 2025 to March 2025:**

Cllr Rogers arrived at 7.45pm and advised that he is waiting for information from the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital League of Friends to establish if they will fund this service for Ashburton.

Teignbridge District Council (TDC) will be meeting with Citizens Advice and towns and parishes within Teignbridge that do not participate or fund the CA to try to address this shortfall in this essential provision for residents.

Cllr Rogers is awaiting an answer from TDC regarding the occasional collection of bagged waste from litter picking and footpath trimming by the Town Ranger from a central location as the Town Council has no means of disposal.

A new Tetra Pax recycling facility is currently being trialled in three locations.

The results of the new Housing Needs Survey for Buckfastleigh will be discussed soon. It is important that exception sites are sourced to meet need in Buckfastleigh.

There has been an increase in the use of Food Banks.

Cllr Rogers confirmed that following the recent visit of Cllr David Palethorpe he is committed to support the provision of a new scout hut project.

**25/13. To review the Police Report for March 2025;**

The Police Report was noted together with the statistical analysis of recorded crime data from the last 12 months. Members also noted the gradual increase in the types of incidents which have previously not affected this community.

**25/14. English Devolution White Paper Update:**

No further updates to report.

**25/15. To receive and note the Be Buckfastleigh Hello Summer 2025 Report:**

**25/16. Budget Analysis Report 01.03.25 – 31.03.25:**

Noted.

**25/17. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.03.25 – 31.03.25:**

Noted.

**25/18. Multi-Pay Card Statements January 2025 to March 2025:**

Noted.

**25/19. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation January 2025 to March 2025:**

Signed by Cllr Sue Clarke

**25/20. To consider the new Long Term Agreement insurance renewal proposal**

**Decision:** Members agreed to remain with the existing insurance provider and accept a new agreement for 3 years at £873.55 per year with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

**25/21. Chairs Announcements.**

The Chair, Cllr Sue Clarke was delighted to open the refurbished visitors centre at The Valiant Soldier which now provides a modern, light and interactive space for both visitors and residents.

Cllr Clarke will be attending the VE 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at the Holy Trinity War Memorial on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May and thanked the local branch of the Royal British Legion for their work at the memorial garden at the junction of Bossell Road and Crest Hill.

**25/22. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting.**

It was noted that sadly Cllr Joanna De Groot-Marzec has stood down as Chair of the Buckfastleigh Christmas Fair. She was thanked for all her hard work.

Due to the lack of volunteers, it is not known if the fair will take place this year in its current form.

Representatives from the Orchard Millennium Green Trust have expressed an interest in organising some kind of Christmas event which includes stalls.

Cllr Georghiades has sent his compliments to Mel Stride MP regarding District Councillor Stuart Roger's dedication to the needs and concerns of Buckfastleigh residents.

**25/23. Items requiring urgent attention.**

None

**25/24. Summary of Key Messages**

Clerk to include thanks from the Town Council to Cllr Stuart Rogers.

**25/25: Motion to move into a Part II (private) session to discuss items of confidential business in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to resolve recommendations from Minute No. 25/04 of the Finance Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025:**

The public and District Councillors left the meeting.

**Meeting returned to Part I**

The following larger grant decisions were resolved:

**The Bungalow Youth Project Dungeons and Dragons Group - £1,000 agreed**

Cllr John Bailey left the meeting.

**Buckfastleigh Rangers Football Club – £1,891.77 agreed**

Following advice from the Clerk, Members agreed to meet the funding shortfall of £1,608.23 for the Football Club application for £3,500 to replace the changing rooms roof having met the criteria from the Teignbridge District Council Community Infrastructure Levy received earlier this month. Without this funding it is unlikely that the club could continue to facilitate football matches and training sessions.

**Meeting closed at 9.45pm.**