

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 which followed the Annual Town Meeting at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Sue Clarke (Chair), Steven Burch, Rod Denley Jones, Ron Fox, Paul Georghiadis, Cem Luscombe, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

**In attendance:** Cllr Jack Major (Teignbridge District Council), Cllr Stuart Rogers (Devon County Council & Teignbridge District Council) and 1 member of the public

**Press:** None

**26/06. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs John Bailey and Ben Leaney

**Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

**26/07. To approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and review actions from this meeting:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Sue Clarke

**Actions:**

- The Clerk confirmed that a letter of support for the Expression of Interest for the Ashburton Arts Centre & Moor Imagination Collective UK Town of Culture bid has been sent.
- Cllr Clarke has spoken with a representative of Devon and Cornwall Police regarding the inclusion of violence against women and girls recorded data for the Buckfastleigh monthly police reports.
- The Clerk has submitted a response to the Devon Local Government Reorganisation consultation on behalf the Council.

**26/08. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026:**

Noted.

Cllr Clarke will be meeting with the Chair of the Bungalow Youth Project to discuss the possible use of the building for Victoria Park activities to reduce hiring costs of other venues.

To resolve the following recommendation from Minute No: 26/06. Following completion of the internal audit, proposal to reimburse Town Hall emergency funding to the Town Council Business Reserve from the 2025/26 surplus.

**Decision:** Proposed by Cllr Georghiadis and seconded by Cllr Clarke with all Members in agreement. Clerk to action following the completion of the internal audit.

**26/09. Questions and comments from the public:**

None

**26/10. Questions to District and County Councillors and comments on reports relevant to this meeting:**

Cllr Rogers will be meeting with a Devon County Council (DCC) Highways Officer in

Buckfastleigh to identify problem areas such as the state of Buckfast Road and ongoing parking issues. The Parking Enforcement Officer has agreed not to target deliveries, volunteers and people using the Social Supermarket on Tuesday afternoons. Mobile speed cameras will be deployed to Plymouth Road and Strode Road, timescale to be confirmed.

Cllr Georghiades highlighted parking problems on Jordan Street and Barn Park. There is not enough space for the average two car family and residents are persistently receiving parking tickets when they have nowhere else to go.

There will be a DCC cabinet meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 to discuss the future of Buckfastleigh Library and funds for a potential community hub. This initiative would tie in with the One Devon One Door initiative where a fully equipped information vehicle will be deployed to rural locations or used to equip venues when visiting.

A Members visit is being organised to Ilfracombe and Okehampton as examples of how the economy of a Devon community can be improved. £1 million has potentially been identified to expand the existing library service within the Town Hall which has the support of Buckfastleigh Primary School and the Education Authority as this also aligns with their plans.

The new Renters Rights Act 2026 effective from 1<sup>st</sup> May includes the abolition of “no-fault” evictions, eliminates fixed term tenancies and bans rental bidding wars.

Cllr Major advised that Tetra Pak recycling such as juice and milk cartons can now be included in the black recycling box used for plastics, tins and cans.

The Teignbridge Councillor Community Fund is now open for new applications for 2026/27. Further information is available on the TDC website.

It was noted the Citizens Advice service is struggling financially which is a valuable free resource for residents and must be retained. TDC has allocated an additional £80,000 towards the increasing number of homeless families and individuals within the district.

Cllr Rogers has been in contact with The Bridge project in Plymouth which supports food security by coordinating food surplus distribution to organisations supporting vulnerable communities.

A member of the public raised the issue of the one-way system in the centre of Buckfastleigh which many believe deters people from visiting the town with the subsequent loss of trade. Having consulted with some of the businesses and residents there is a general consensus that the current road system should be reversed.

Cllr Denley Jones: Visitors are deterred from visiting The Valiant Soldier Museum because they are directed to drive past and out of the town missing the car parks.

### **26/11. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest:**

The proposed development of circa 75 dwellings at the Timbers Road site will be discussed at the Dartmoor National Park Authority Development Management Committee on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 10.00am at the Parke, Bovey Tracey.

### **26/12. To receive the Teignbridge Citizens Advice Buckfastleigh Outreach Activity Report January to March 2026:**

Members noted that the number of enquiries is comparable to Dawlish which has a population

that is four times the size of Buckfastleigh.

**26/13. To review the Police Reports for March to April 2026:**

Noted

**26/14. Local Government Reorganisation Update:**

No further updates as progress is slow.

**26/15. Budget Analysis Report 01.03.26 – 31.03.26:**

Noted.

The cost of supporting the cinema was highlighted and that film licence invoices are currently paid from a ring-fenced budget.

**26/16. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.03.26 – 31.03.26:**

Noted.

**26/17. Multi-Pay Card Statements January 2026 to March 2026:**

Noted

**26/18. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation January 2026 to March 2026:**

Noted and signed by the Chair

**26/19. Chairs Announcements.**

The Chair informed the meeting that some residents had expressed concern regarding the individual who undertakes weeding of public property around the town. This work is not authorised or within the remit of the Town Council.

**26/20. Councillor updates relevant to this meeting.**

Cllr Burch was pleased to inform the meeting that he has been approached by an organiser to deliver a Soap Box Derby event in 2027. If viable, further information to follow.

Cllr Burch has also held an informal tentative meeting with some business owners to discuss ideas and collaborations for the benefit of the local economy.

**26/21. Items requiring Urgent Items:**

None

**26/22. Summary of Key Messages**

Clerk to action.

**Meeting closed at 8.15pm**