

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.00pm.**

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

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

It was noted again that Cllr John Nutley (Teignbridge District Council) continues to refrain from attending Buckfastleigh Town Council meetings.

**Press:** None

## **26/23. Election of Town Mayor and Chair of the Town Council for 2026/27 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:**

The Clerk opened the meeting and invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor and Chair. Cllr Paul Georghiades was nominated by Cllr Steven Burch and seconded by Cllr Rod Denley Jones. With no further nominations Cllr Georghiades was duly elected with all members in agreement.

Cllr Georghiades conveyed his grateful thanks on behalf of the Council to Cllr Clarke for her years of service as both the Town Mayor and Chair.

**26/24. Apologies for absence:** None

**Councillors invited to declare any interests:**

## **26/25. Election of Deputy Town Mayor and Deputy Chair of the Town Council for 2026/27 and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:**

The Chair invited nominations for the above position and Cllr Rod Denley Jones was nominated by Cllr Cem Luscombe which was seconded by Cllr Sylvee Phillips with all members in agreement. With no further nominations, Cllr Denley Jones was duly elected.

## **26/26. Appointment of the Chair of the Finance Committee and Members of this Committee:**

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

## **26/27. Appointment of the Chair of the Tourism, Recreation and Community Development Committee and Members of this Committee:**

Members agreed that following the start of the new Buckfastleigh Business Forum by Cllr Burch which is attracting new members and interest by local traders that the TRCD Committee should be deferred for the foreseeable future.

## **26/28. Appointment of the Chair of the Personnel Committee and Members of this Committee:**

Cllr Sue Clarke was appointed as Chair with all Members in agreement and Cllrs Georghiades,

Luscombe and Phillips as committee members.

**26/29. Appointment of Members to the Planning Review Group:**

Cllrs Bailey, 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 and all significant applications to be discussed at full Council when required.

**26/30. 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.

**26/31. 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 and report back to Members if required.
- Bungalow Youth Management Committee (1 Councillor). Cllr Luscombe appointed.
- Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Wellbeing Centre League of Friends (1 Councillor). Cllrs Rogers and Major were asked to contact the League of Friends to question why they no longer require representation from the Town Council when this facility services both communities and not just Ashburton. Previously the Chair of Ashburton Town Council was the Chair of the League of Friends with the Chair of Buckfastleigh Town Council as the Vice Chair.

**26/32. 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.

**26/33. To review and adopt the Town Council Treasury and Investment Policy:**

**Decision:** Resolved

**26/34. 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

The Clerk summarised the report and thanked the Buckfastleigh Action for Nature Group for their contribution to this report and work within the parish.

**26/35. Public Question Time:** No questions raised.

Meeting closed at 7.24pm and proceeded to the May Town Council Meeting