

# BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th May 2025 at 7.00pm** **in Scoriton Village Hall**

**Present** – Cllrs Brent ( Chairman ), Feasey , Knowling, Le Marchant , Owen and Rolls  
Dist Cllr Pannell and Clerk - Karen Gilbert.

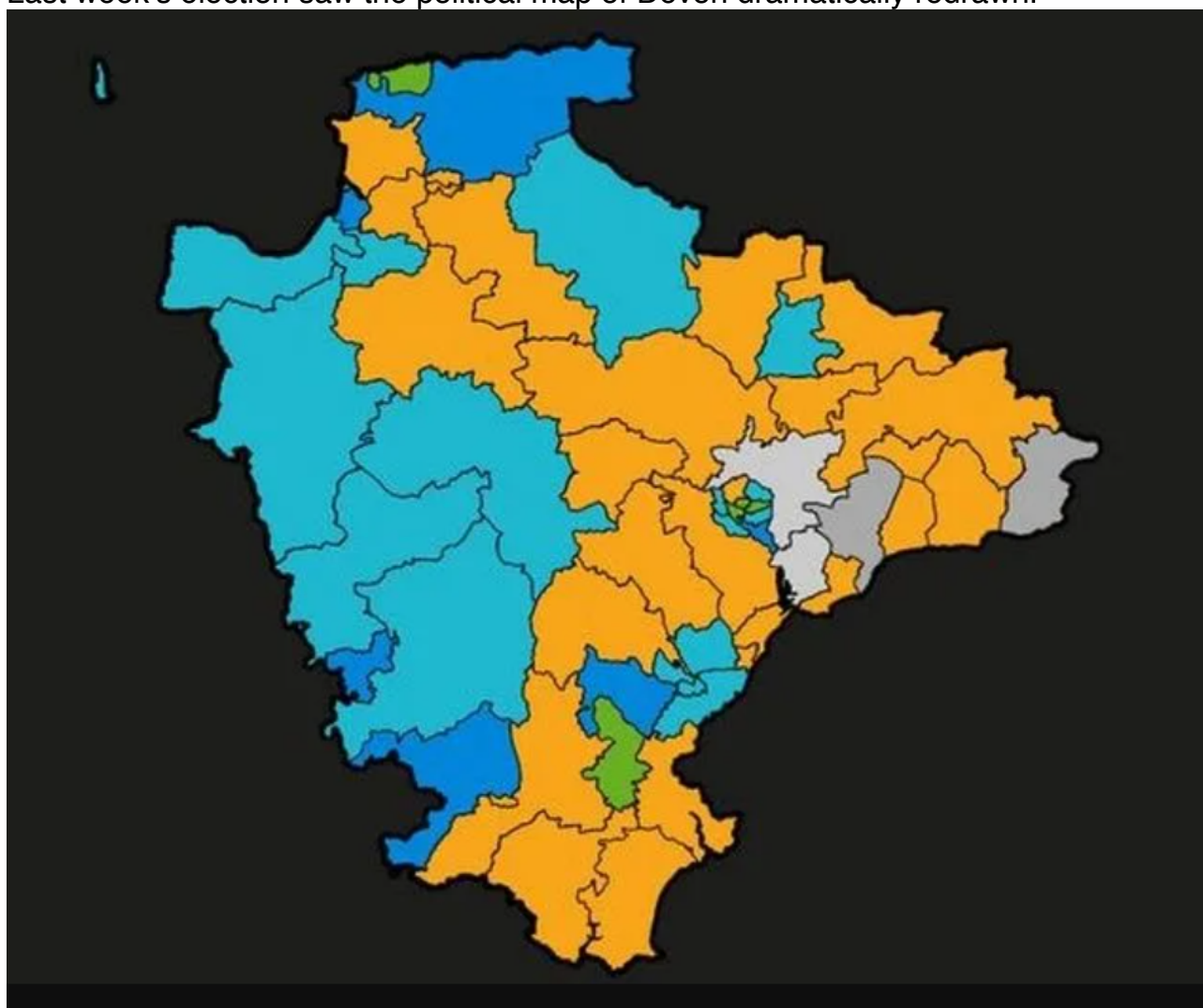
### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the recent death of Frank Niering. Frank served on Buckfastleigh West P.C. for a number of years and was always happy to offer his opinion on and discuss the various issues the P.C. had to deal with. It was a pleasure to have him as a Councillor and he will be missed. The thoughts of all our Parish Councillors and Clerk are with his family at this sad time

Full reports available from the Clerk - all reports circulated to Cllrs in advance

### **DEVON COUNTY - Election Results**

Last week's election saw the political map of Devon dramatically redrawn.



The Lib Dems went from 9 to 27 Cllrs (4 short of an outright majority).

The Conservatives went from 40 to 7 Cllrs.

The Green Party gained 4 members, from 2 to 6 Cllrs.

The Independents are now at 2, down from 3 Cllrs.

Reform UK are the official opposition, with 18 Cllrs. The South Hams is the only authority area in Devon with no Reform members.

Julian Brazil has been elected Leader of the Lib Dems and will become Leader at County later this month. He has announced that he will be resigning from his position as leader at SHDC.

Paul Arnott, the Leader of East Devon District Council, will be his county deputy. A new county cabinet will be selected over the next couple of weeks , prior to the annual meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Election round up**

The results for the Devon County Council election are in.

The following people have won the seats for the 7 wards within the South Hams.

- Totnes and Dartington - Jacqi Hodgson (Green Party)
- South Brent and Yealmpton - Dan Thomas (Liberal Democrats)
- Salcombe - Louise Wainwright (Liberal Democrats)
- Kingsbridge - Julian Brazil (Liberal Democrats)
- Ivybridge - Victor Abbott (Liberal Democrats)
- Dartmouth & Marldon - Simon Rake (Liberal Democrats)
- Bickleigh & Wembury - Tony Carson (Conservative)

You can find all the detailed information on our [website here](#).

Congratulations to both new and returning councillors.

## **Water Quality Monitoring Pilot for South Hams**

Our rivers and estuaries are a major draw for those who engage in leisure activities both in and on the water, ranging from dinghy sailors to paddle boarders and wild swimmers.

Currently, up-to-date information on water quality is difficult for the public to find, and is often restricted to seasonal sampling at designated bathing water sites.

In April, South Hams District Council launched a pilot project which aims to deliver real-time (or near to real-time) data to help our residents and visitors stay better informed about the health of our rivers and estuaries. The pilot supports our Delivery Plan on climate and biodiversity and our commitment to local tourism and marine businesses.

We've been working with Totnes-based Teledyne Valeport to bring together a suite of sensors that will be deployed at four locations in the district and will monitor water quality without the need for off-site analysis. A senior leadership strategic visit last year highlighted the company's long-established role in underwater sensor research and development.

Throughout this pilot, we will work closely with local community groups already actively engaged in water monitoring activities to identify the most effective locations for exposure risk. The pilot will also work with organisations such as the Environment Agency to help build a better picture of water quality in our district.

The pilot offers an important opportunity to partner with University of Plymouth, with

## **Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan consultation – now live**

Further to previous advanced notice, the public consultation on the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan has begun and will run until Monday 19 May.

The consultation draft of the Forest Plan can be viewed here: [PSDCF Consultation](#)

### **DARTMOOR NPA**

Cllr Pannell commented on the recent Moorland fire and asked everyone to take care - especially during this dry period

### **24/05/01 - Election of Chairman**

Cllr Brent had confirmed his willingness to act as Chairman to Buckfastleigh West Parish Council . Cllr S Brent was proposed by Cllr Feasey & seconded by Cllr Owen with all in agreement. Election of Vice Chairman – Cllr K Feasey – proposed by Cllr Brent & seconded by Cllr Owen - with all in agreement.

### **25/05/01a Apologies for absence - County Cllr Thomas**

**25/05/02 Approval of Minutes** - The Minutes of the regular meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting both held on 1st April 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

**25/05/03. Declarations of interest** - None      **Dispensation requests** None

### **25/05/04- PC admin -**

a) There were no Co-option applications to consider . The Clerk asked that further advertisement should be considered

### **25/05/05 - Clerks Report**

The Police report had been circulated prior to the Meeting

The Clerk advised the Council that the Planning application at Brook Manor was withdrawn on 9th April

### **25/05/06- Planning**

|               |                         |                                                      |                                                                                                           |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DOC/0427/24 3 | Discharge Of Conditions | Post Box Field,<br>Buckfastleigh, Devon,<br>TQ11 0JA | Change of use of land<br>from agriculture to<br>equine together with<br>relocation of stable and<br>store |
| <b>NOTED</b>  |                         |                                                      |                                                                                                           |

### **25/05/07 Finance - Approval of cheques - AGREED by all**

|                      |                        |         |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------|
| K Gilbert            | Expenses 03/25 & 04/25 | £82.00  |
| Hawthorns accounting | Internal audit         | £75.00  |
| DALC                 | Annual subscription    | £114.92 |

**b) To consider the Internal Auditors report** - The Clerk presented the internal Auditors report which highlighted no issues **NOTED**

**c) To consider & approve the Parish Council Accounts y/e 31/3/25 /exemption form**

The Clerk presented the Accounts for Buckfastleigh West Parish Council for the year ending 31/3/25 The Clerk also presented the Exemption from Audit form  
Both were **APPROVED** by all - SHOW OF HANDS

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Accounts as adopted and sign the exemption form

**d) To consider/ agree Annual statement of Governance y/e 31/3/25**

The Clerk read out the statement of Governance

**APPROVED** by all - SHOW OF HANDS

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**e) To consider & approve Statements on Annual return y/e 31/3/25**

The Clerk presented the Annual Return - previously circulated

**APPROVED** by all - SHOW OF HANDS

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE RETURN**

**25/05/08 Councillor reports**

- a) Tree Warden report. - No report
- b) Councillors reports from other meetings. Cllr Le Marchant advised that the Village Hall Committee was shortly to meet - after which she would be able to update the Council regarding the potential sale of land
- c) Footpaths Warden Report. - No report

**25/05/09 - Village Matters**

**a) Highways** - It was NOTED that new replacement Power poles had been erected at various locations

**b) Village Hall** - see above

**25/05/10. Date/time of next meeting - 3rd JUNE 2025**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at. 7.40 pm